

### **Watershed Alliance Meeting**

Please join us on April 20<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday evening) from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. for the next Minnesota River Watershed Alliance (Watershed Alliance) quarterly meeting as we work on the “Clean Up the Minnesota River” focus issues chosen at the January meeting. The Watershed Alliance is excited about what we have picked and are looking for help to make them a reality. The meeting will be at the Hutchinson Event Center (1005 Highway 15 South Plaza 15) with a social hour starting at 6 p.m. with food and drink and the formal meeting beginning at 7 p.m. We strive to wrap up by 9 p.m. At the meeting we will be discussing and making plans for:

- MN River Paddler Program – Blue Earth River Paddle event on June 12<sup>th</sup>
- MN River Waterway Trail
- MN River Film Documentary
- Lake Pepin Conservation Bus Tour
- And much more . . .

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

### **Dirt the Movie**

The Documentary on Soil called the “Dirt! The Movie” is playing at the Linden Hills Park Building (3100 43<sup>rd</sup> Street West) on April 13<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday) at 7 p.m. for free. Dirt! The Movie directed and produced by Bill Benenson and Gene Rosow, and narrated by Jamie Lee Curtis--takes you inside the wonders of the soil. It brings to life the environmental, economic, social and political impact the soil has. Find out more at [dirthemovie.org](http://dirthemovie.org). Sponsored by the LHiNC Environment Committee and Linden Hills Power & Light.

### **Call for Abstracts - Minnesota Water Resources Conference, October 19-20, 2010 | Saint Paul RiverCentre**

The Minnesota Water Resources Conference, scheduled October 19-20, 2010 at the Saint Paul RiverCentre, is again requesting abstracts to be presented at this year's conference. The conference features keynote speakers, luncheon presentations, poster exhibits and concurrent sessions. The event facilitates interaction among engineers, water resource managers, researchers, and local, state and federal agency staff.

Abstracts are due by Friday, April 16, 2010 and must be submitted electronically to: [www.wrc.umn.edu/waterconf](http://www.wrc.umn.edu/waterconf). Please view the attached document for more information on submitting an abstract.

If you have any questions regarding an abstract or the 2010 Water Resources Conference, please contact Heather Dorr or Nicole Freese at [cceconf5@umn.edu](mailto:cceconf5@umn.edu) or 612-624-3078.

### **Agriculture and Water Summit 2010: Keeping Water on the Land for Conservation and Production**

The Minnesota Division of the Izaak Walton League of America, in partnership with the Freshwater Society, announces its *Agriculture and Water Summit 2010: Keeping Water on the Land for Conservation and Production*, Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm at Normandale Community College in Bloomington.

The goal is to bring together farmers, researchers, conservationists, students, and others interested in working collaboratively to protect water resources while ensuring productive farms. Presenters include Bruce Wilson and Gary Sands of the University of Minnesota's Dept. of Bioproducts and Biosystems Engineering taking about agricultural drainage and strategies for conserving water in the soil and reducing the flow of nitrogen to surface waters. Other presenters include Warren Formo of the Minnesota Agricultural Water Resources Coalition, Martin Jaus, an organic dairy farmer from Sibley county, Tim Larson from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and Tony Thompson, a corn and

soybean farmer, and renowned expert on ecologically and economically sustainable farming from Windom.

The luncheon keynote speaker will be Jon Foley, Director of the University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment presenting "**The Other Inconvenient Truth: A Global Challenge for Agriculture and the Environment**" addressing the challenges of feeding a growing world population while protecting the land and water resources necessary to sustain the planet.

Afternoon breakout sessions will include:

- Scott Sparlin, Watershed Initiative Coordinator for the Friends of the Minnesota Valley talking about conservation drainage.
- Joel Peterson, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources presenting "*Two-Stage Ditches*" for minimizing sediment and nutrients being transported from ditch to stream.
- Barry Draskowski, Director of GeoSpatial Services at St Mary's University in Winona on mapping natural wetland complexes in planning water management and conservation systems.
- The Minnesota Agricultural Water Resources Coalition will present its Discovery Farms program.
- Brad Redlin, Director of Agriculture Programs for the Izaak Walton League of America discussing the NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service) and the USDA's conservation advisory committees.

The workshop costs \$20 for participants, \$15 for students and includes a box lunch. Registrations received after Monday March 15th or at the door will be \$25 for participants, \$20 for students. For registration and information go to [www.minnesotaiakes.org/](http://www.minnesotaiakes.org/) Or contact the Minnesota Division office at [ikes@minnesotaiakes.org](mailto:ikes@minnesotaiakes.org) 651-221-0215.

### **Conservation Farming and Clean Water in a Challenging Economy**

The Cannon River Watershed Partnership (CRWP) is hosting a workshop on April 7<sup>th</sup> – Conservation Farming and Clean Water in a Challenging Economy. The workshop will be from 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM at the American Legion Hall, 112 NE 5<sup>th</sup> St., Faribault, Minnesota. Sessions will include presentations from the Land Stewardship Project, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, the Nature Conservancy, and local farmers who are making conservation happen on a budget. The public is welcome to attend.

Registration is \$20 for CRWP members, \$30.00 for nonmembers, and \$40 for registration and CRWP membership, refreshments and lunch will be provided. **Please register by March 24, 2010.** Call the CRWP office at (507) 786-8400 or visit our website at [www.crwpp.net](http://www.crwpp.net)

### **The Story of Bottled Water**

From the makers of the Story of Stuff - that great little video you've heard so much about or have already seen. This is a 7 minute video equally as good as the Story of Stuff. Check it out...



yet, the mountains of plastic bottles generated as waste tower higher, though less majestically, than the snow-capped peaks on the water bottle labels.

## **The Story of Bottled Water**

- Annie Leonard and The Story of Stuff Project, together with five sustainability advocacy organizations, have produced a new video, [The Story of Bottled Water](#), scheduled for release on March 22nd, World Water Day.
- [The Story of Bottled Water](#) is a short (7 minute) behind-the-scenes look at the bottled water business that examines how we have been duped into buying half a billion bottles a week of what is essentially tap water, but at a price that is approximately two thousand times higher. Worse

- Watch [The Story of Bottled Water](#) free on the web. While you're at it, you can also watch [The Story of Stuff](#) and [The Story of Cap and Trade](#). And if you want your own copy of either the [DVD](#) or the [recently released print edition of The Story of Stuff](#), both are available through [Hesperian](#).



### **EPA Launches Web Forum on How to Best Protect America's Waters**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is seeking public input on how the agency can better protect and improve the health of our waters. For a two-week period, EPA is holding a Web discussion forum on how the nation can better manage some of the most significant water pollution problems facing our nation. The feedback received on the online forum will help shape the discussion at EPA's upcoming conference in April, Coming Together for Clean Water, where we will engage approximately 100 executive and local level water leads on the agency's clean water agenda.

"We look forward to reviewing the ideas and feedback from the public," said Peter S. Silva, assistant administrator EPA's Office of Water. "This online discussion is for anyone who wants to share their best solutions for restoring healthy waters and creating sustainable communities across the country."

EPA wants to receive input from water professionals, advocates, and anyone interested in water quality issues about best solutions—from planning, scientific tools, low impact development, to green infrastructure and beyond—in controlling water pollution and how resources can be better focused to improve these efforts.

To join the discussion: <http://blog.epa.gov/waterforum/>

### **Clean Up Local Lakes – Strategies and Projects for Impaired Waters presentation**

April 7th (Wed.) - CLEANING UP LOCAL LAKES-STRATEGIES AND PROJECTS FOR IMPAIRED WATERS will be presented by LEE GANSKE, Watershed Unit Supervisor for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, at 7:00 PM at the Elysian Tourism Center (Hwy 60 across from Casey's). Program is presented by the Lake Elysian Association. Free and open to the public.

### **Job Opportunities:**

#### **Environmental Writing Job**

Change.org is seeking a full-time Editor who will be responsible for leading Change.org's Environment and [Sustainable](#) Food properties and turning them into a leading "Green" voice online – raising

awareness about and driving action on climate change, clean energy, farm, and sustainable food-related issues.

If you have great writing and editing skills and are excited about the possibility of joining a small but rapidly growing team leading the movement to merge the worlds of media and activism, we want to hear from you.

Change.org's Environment and [Sustainable](#) Food Editor will:

- Define the overall mission and editorial voice of Environment and Sustainable Food at Change.org;
- Identify and contract promising freelance writers;
- Manage, mentor, and edit the writing of 10 or more regular contributors;
- Write 3-4 daily blog posts covering important real-time news and commentary;
- Support rapid response activist campaigns on environment and food issues;
- Oversee a social media and community building strategy.
- Click the link below for the full description: [Environmental writing job](#)

### **Big Stone Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) Technician**

SWCD Technician will perform the work outlined below, but may not be limited to: Manage the SWCD tree and shrub program by: making site visits, complete tree planting design, order trees and weed matting, take customer orders, keep accurate tree inventory, assist in billing, maintain and/or operating tractor, tree planter, fabric machine, tree storage cooler and SWCD storage shed, be able to identify many tree and shrub species. Oversee the SWCD native grass drill program by working with landowners and the grass drill operator, ability to operate grass drill on occasion, learn to identify native grasses and forbs.

Understand State conservation programs such as: Re-Invest in Minnesota/Wetland Reserve Program (RIM/WRP), Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA), RIM Buffer, Working Lands Incentive (WLI), Rural Preserves, and State Cost-Share, explain programs to landowners and complete required paperwork for program administration. Manage the well monitoring program by taking monthly readings, recording and reporting results on DNR website. Perform Site Checks on lands and practices under State programs and report results in the office files and to landowners. Possess a general understanding of the Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) rules and be a member of the WCA Technical Evaluation Panel for Big Stone County, be trained in wetland determinations and delineations.

Work with NRCS staff and have a general understanding of Federal conservation programs such as: Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), & Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP). Have the ability to work closely with other agencies such as DNR, UMRWD, USF&WS, FSA, MnDot, Big Stone County, Ph/F, DU, and COE. Have a general understanding of surveying and basic knowledge of conservation practice designs on terraces, waterways, earthen dikes, etc.

Attend and give SWCD work report at monthly SWCD Board of Supervisor meetings, work with Secretary on setting up meeting agenda. Work with secretary on the SWCD annual plan and report. Assist office staff with educational efforts by staffing booths at shows and fairs, attending public information sessions, presenting information on the radio. Attend trainings and meetings to stay updated on continuing program rules and requirements, and to be informed on new programs. Have a working knowledge of computer programs such as Word, Excel, ArcMAP/GIS and email. Have a basic understating of farming practices, soils, soil survey, wind & water erosion and the Public Land Survey System (PLSS).

For more information, [http://www.bigstoneswcd.org/Office\\_Info/Office\\_Info.htm](http://www.bigstoneswcd.org/Office_Info/Office_Info.htm)

### **Wetland Specialist**

Washington Conservation District is accepting applications for a Wetland Specialist. This is an advanced position that is responsible for providing technical expertise and support to Washington Conservation District's wetland-related programs and other natural resource management efforts. The person selected for this position must balance field work, interagency coordination, positive public interaction, and detailed documentation to successfully support implementation of the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) in Washington County. This position will also support other WCD programs – the specifics of which will depend on the skill sets of the successful applicant.

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

### **Events:**

March 25<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) is the **Simon Lake Wildlife Management Designation informational meeting** at 7 p.m. at the Lakeside Ballroom (180 South Lakeshore Drive) in Glenwood. Citizens will have an opportunity to learn about the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources proposal to designate western Minnesota's Simon Lake as the state's 45<sup>th</sup> wildlife management lake.

March 25<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) is the **Chippewa River Watershed Project Annual Meeting** at the Starbuck Community Center. The evening begins with registration and social gathering at 5pm, meal at 6 pm, and program at 7 pm. Meals are free with registration. Presentations will be given on the latest monitoring results and the Wonderful World of Mussels by Mike Davis with the Minnesota DNR. Mussels are biological indicators of a river's health and are an often overlooked river species. Mike Davis is one of the leads of the Minnesota Statewide Mussel Survey and will offer a lot of great information on this native species as well as how mussels relate to the Chippewa River Watershed.

April 17<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) is the **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Fun Shoot (Clay Pigeon Shoot)** at the River Ridge Gun Club, Courtland sponsored by the Twin Valley Boy Scout Association. Check in is at 12:30 and the Shoot starts at 1:00pm. Go to [www.twinvalleybsa.org](http://www.twinvalleybsa.org) to print off a registration form or for more information.

April 20<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday) is the **Minnesota River Watershed Alliance meeting** at the Hutchinson Events Center starting at 6:00 p.m. with a social hour and the formally meeting beginning at 9:00. For more information <http://www.watershedalliance.blogspot.com/>

April 24<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) is the **2010 Minnesota River Banquet** with the social hour starting at 5 p.m. in the lower level of Turner Hall in New Ulm. The dinner starts at 6:30 and program at 7:30 with an update on Minnesota actions, issues and advocacy opportunities for the public. It will also feature a startling snapshot look at the phenomenal fisheries in the backwater area of the river near New Ulm and Minnesota River Jeopardy will be back. For those who wish to come early and pay a visit to the Regional River History and Information Center the doors will be open starting at 2 PM until 4:30. The center is the big brick building located in Riverside Park at 1st South and Front St. This event is in its 21st year and as always is being hosted by the Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River. Pre-registration is open and can be done by email providing a name and the number attending to [yasure@lycos.com](mailto:yasure@lycos.com) or by sending a check for \$20 per person to CCMR P.O. Box 488 New Ulm MN 56073 notating banquet tickets on the check. CCMR is a basin-wide non-profit 501 c 3 federal tax exempt organization. All donations are tax deductible deducible.

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

### **Water Quality Articles:**

[DNR tells the feds: Delist wolves, now](#) (Minnesota Outdoor News). The Minnesota gray wolf should be removed immediately from the federal government's endangered and threatened species list and returned to state management, according to a petition filed earlier this week by the DNR with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[DNR working to establish northwest sandhill crane season](#) (Minnesota Outdoor News). A plan that's been in the works for a few years could come to fruition this fall.

[New fishing guide regulations are bad for Minnesota lake guides, Sen. Klobuchar tells Coast Guard](#) (MinnPost). Tough new Coast Guard regulations for small-charter-boat-captains – which include some fishing guides in Minnesota – were challenged by Sen. Amy Klobuchar.

[DNR to kill small herd of nuisance elk](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). The animals have caused trouble for farmers. Some folks wish there was another way.

[Turkey trouble eases with spring](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Wild turkeys that were a nuisance in Shoreview have dispersed now that the snow has melted and they can more easily find food.

[House revises LCCMR bill](#) The House earlier this week passed the bill that carries recommendations of the Legislative-Citizens Commission on Minnesota Resources, but it's not the same bill the commission approved.

[Pawlenty veto costs state \\$60 million for easements](#) (Minnesota Outdoor News). Late last week, state Natural Resources Conservation Service officials told national NRCS officials that Minnesota would be able to take \$35 million in funds for the Wetlands Reserve Program.

[Conservation loses big in latest political dogfight](#) (St. Paul Pioneer Press). One of Minnesota's most successful conservation programs has been caught in the political crossfire between Gov. Tim Pawlenty and the Legislature.

[A green turnaround](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). A veteran executive restructures operations at a Minneapolis nonprofit dedicated to saving energy.

[Almanac: Effort to acquire public lands comes to controversial demise](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Opposition to the state acquiring more public land for wildlife and parks surfaced last week at the state Capitol when the Minnesota House removed all \$4.2 million for land acquisitions in a bill involving the Environmental Trust Fund -- money generated by the Minnesota Lottery.

*Let us . . . permit nature to take her own way; she better understands her own affairs than we.* – Michel de Montaigne

**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

Scott Kudelka  
Watershed Assessment Specialist  
Water Resources Center  
184 Trafton Science Center S

Mankato, MN 56001  
507-389-2304  
[scott.kudelka@mnsu.edu](mailto:scott.kudelka@mnsu.edu)