

Kris Beuckens has been hired as the Coordinator of the Pomme de Terre River Watershed Project. Kris can be reached at 320-589-4886 or kris.beuckens@mn.nacdnet.net at the Stevens SWCD office in Morris.



The Minnesota River Watershed Alliance

Desiree Hohenstein has been hired as the Recycling/Water/Wetland Administrator for Brown County and can be reached at 507-233-6641 or Desiree.Hohenstein@co.brown.mn.us. She replaces Paul Davis, who is now a project manager at MPCA in Mankato.

Check out the blog on "King Korn," a documentary on <http://looncommons.org/2008/01/25/dethroning-king-corn>

Are you looking for information on native gardens, Raingardens or streambank stabilization goes to the Rice Creek Watershed District web site at: <http://www.bluethumb.org>

This press release: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/hypoxiapressrelease.pdf> and document: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/hypoxiausgs.pdf> cover a study on hypoxia zone in the Northern Gulf of Mexico.

Jobs

The Sherburne Soil and Water Conservation District is looking for a Watershed Coordinator in the Elk River and Foley area. This position is shared with the Benton SWCD and responsible for performing a variety of tasks toward implementation of watershed initiatives in Sherburne and Benton Counties. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/sherburneswcd.pdf>

The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) has posted an open position for a Water Management Coordinator (classified as Hydrologist 3) through February 22. It has two primary functions: (1) work with counties, soil and water conservation districts, water management organizations, and watershed districts on developing and implementing comprehensive water management plans; and (2) administer hearings and appeals that address actions regarding the Wetland Conservation Act, watershed districts, and other statutes under the Board's authority. This position will be based out of their St. Paul Office, work closely with BWSR staff in our 8 field offices, local government staff statewide, members of the general public, and legal counsel. The position announcement and description is available at the BWSR website as follows: <http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/careers/index.html>. Please contact Dave Weirens at 651-297-3432 or david.weirens@bwsr.state.mn.us if you have any questions or would like to discuss the position.

The Capitol Region Watershed District is hiring a temporary Water Resource Technician to assist the Watershed District Technicians in the maintenance and inspection of storm water quality monitoring sites. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/watertechnician.pdf>

The Brown-Nicollet-Cottonwood Water Quality Board is looking for a Water Quality Specialist/Water Quality Program Director. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/waterqualityspecialist.pdf>

The MACDE website has been updated with additional job postings: <http://www.macde.us/jobs.htm>

Events:

Don't forget about CURE's Annual Meeting at the Hollywood Theater in Montevideo this Saturday (February 9th). Wazyatawin Angela Wilson, PhD is the guest speaker and will talk about The Dakota People and the Minnesota River. For more information contact the CURE office at 1-877-269-2873.

Winter Words: Join the Ney Nature Center for its inaugural Book Club on February 10th (Sunday) from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information: <http://neycenter.org/calendar>

On February 14th (Thursday) join Tom Kalahar of Renville SWCD and Ron Bolduan, Minnesota River Valley Photographer for a discussion and photo tour of the unique granite outcrops found in area at 6:30 p.m. in the Basement Meeting Room of the New Ulm Library. This event is sponsored by the Regional River History Center of New Ulm and the Minnesota River Watershed Alliance.

Land Stewardship Project's third annual Capitol Family Farm Breakfast will be held on February 19th (Tuesday) at the State Capitol. For more information call 612-722-6377.

On February 26th (Tuesday) come to an open house on how to "Prevent River and Lake Pollution!!" from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Valley Green Room in the Le Sueur Mall's basement. This open house is for everyone and hosted by the Friends of the Minnesota Valley (952-881-9055).

March 6th (Tuesday) is the Chippewa River Watershed Project Annual Meeting at the Starbuck Community Center. For more information contact Kylene, Paul or Jennifer at 320-269-2139 ext. 120.

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

Water Quality Articles:

Board: Minn. should have a say in water appropriation for Big Stone II. The Minnesota River Board repeats its plea to the Governors of Minnesota and South Dakota to reconvene the Boundary Waters Commission over the issue of the drawdown of Big Stone Lake, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/mnriverboardbigstone.pdf>

PETA to confront Hormel tonight on turkey slaughter methods. Animal rights activists are using an insurgent tactic to protest how turkeys are processed by having one of its representatives present a statement at the annual meeting of Hormel Foods Corp, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/petaconfronthormel.pdf>

Ford neighbors worry what cleanup will bring. Residents of St. Paul's Highland Park neighborhood want to know how pollutants at the Ford factory site will be handled and disposed once this plant is shut down, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/fordneighborworried.pdf>

Pawlenty works to clear the air. The Minnesota Legislature and Governor Tim Pawlenty should continue to push for clean energy legislation according to the Minnesota Daily Editorial, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/pawlentyneedsmorethantalk.pdf>

Tight budget doesn't stop outdoor issues. The Minnesota Legislature will be inside the Capitol discussing and debating outdoor issues including the establishment of a new state park, cleaning the state's waters and numerous of other items, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/tightbudgetsoutdoorissues.pdf>

Outdoor Stories from the Pioneer Press. A new state Wildlife Management Area will be named for Roger Holmes, the DNR is in the process of drafting rules to limit the use of off-road vehicles during certain seasons and over 24,000 people attended Pheasant Fest in St. Paul, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/outdoornews.pdf>

Cleaner power plant yields higher costs, more emissions. A cleaner power plant results in higher energy costs and more emissions for St. Paul's Rock-Tenn recycling plant, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/cleanerpoweryieldsotherissues.pdf>

Minneapolis man leave entire 401(k) to waterfowl group. Even though no one at Minnesota Waterfowl Association had heard of Bennett Johnsen, a longtime member of the conservation group they were grateful for his donation of \$400,000 to the organization, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/waterfowlreceivesmoney.pdf>

3M chemical found in nine more metro lakes. Stormwater runoff could be behind the elevated levels of PFOS found in nine more metro lakes in a study conducted by MPCA; 11 other lakes studied showed little or no trace of it, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/3mchemicalfoundinlakes.pdf>

Gustavus' Campus Energy Challenge a high-wattage effort to raise awareness. Gustavus Adolphus College of St. Peter has a plan to streamroll all opponents in this year's National Campus Energy Challenge. Schools compete across the country on who can reduce the most energy consumption, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/gustavusenergychallenge.pdf>

Climate change group avoids larger issues. The governor's Minnesota Climate Change Advisory Group passed on the hard questions concerning the growing global climate change crisis and instead asked the state to "encourage" and "support" initiatives, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/climatechangegroupavoidslargerissues.pdf>

State officials offer preliminary climate change recommendations. The recommendations outlined by the governor's Minnesota Climate Change Advisory Group will be matched by a more detailed report, expected after the Legislature opens, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/climatechangegrouprecommendations.pdf>

The state's advisory group on the topic has ideas that will waste money and intrude into our lives. According to Paul Chesser, "The global-warming panic agenda is all about government growth and lifestyle control, couched in more pleasant-sounding terms like "incentive," "efficiency" and "climate-friendly," <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/climaterecommendationswastemoney.pdf>

Heat Your Home Without A Furnace, Or Heating Bill. Geothermal heating and cooling has been around for centuries, but it's just recently become more popular because of rising energy costs, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/heatinghomewithourfurnace.pdf>

Minnesota cities struggle with measuring their carbon footprint. Thirty-two Minnesota cities have signed the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. More than two years since the agreement launched, cities are having a hard time figuring out the size of their carbon footprint, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/mncitiesstruggletomeasure.pdf>

3-state water project left out of Bush budget. President Bush's new budget proposal requests no new dollars for the Lewis and Clark regional water system, zeroing out federal funds for the project that is expected to cost hundreds of millions of dollars to construct, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/waterprojectcutbybush.pdf>

"We are the most dangerous species of life on the planet, and every other species, even the earth itself, has cause to fear our power to exterminate. But we are also the only species which, when it chooses to do so, will go to great effort to save what it might destroy." - Wallace Stegner

"God bless America. Let's save some of it." - Edward Abbey

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: 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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