

Happy Thanksgiving,

I want to wish everyone a relaxing and fun holiday.

Patrick, Dixie, Duane and the rest of the CURE (Clean Up the River Environment) organization did a great job with the first 'Green' Carpet Film Festival and Video Contest. The films shown during the festival were thought provoking and it was heartening to see all the video entries from the youth. Of the top ten entries (out of 23 submitted), eight were from students in the Montevideo area.



State Senator Dennis Fredrickson and State Representative Terry Morrow spoke at the recent MN River Board meeting about water issues including the Clean Water Legacy Funding, TMDLs, drainage and individual watershed project. They related how the emphasis on improving our water quality has seen a major change in the last 10 to 15 years.

The Lower Minnesota River Watershed District is proposing a MAWD (Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts) Resolution for a "River Basin Approach for Water Management Planning and Implementation in the MN River Basin." They want the State Legislature to establish by statute a Minnesota River basin Commission to:

1. Protect, preserve, and use natural surface and groundwater storage and retention systems,
2. Maximize benefits of public capital expenditures needed to correct flooding and water quality problems,
3. Identify and plan for means to effectively protect and improve surface and groundwater quality,
4. Establish more uniform policies and official controls for surface and groundwater management,
5. Prevent erosion of soil and associated pollutants into surface water systems,
6. Promote groundwater recharge,
7. Protect and enhance fish and wildlife habitat,
8. Secure other benefits associated with the sustainable use and management of surface and groundwater resources,
9. Promote coordination and cooperation among basin water management organizations and other stakeholders involved in the completion of Total Maximum Daily Load studies for impaired waters in the Minnesota River Watershed.

For more information contact Terry Schwalbe at 952-227-1037.

Mankato and North Mankato area have kicked off an urban reforestation initiative called ONE MILLION TREES BY 2020. The benefits of reforestation include: Beautification \* Carbon sequestration \* Hardwood and biomass production \* Wildlife habitat \* Summer cooling \* Groundwater recharge and soil stabilization \* Fuel savings (no mowing required) \* Recycling of auto tailpipe emissions \* Noise abatement. They are looking contributions including seedlings, along with individuals, youth, civic and school groups to volunteer to plant seedlings in April. They also need people to supervise volunteers and groups in plantings and people to organize and coordinate planting. To contribute time or trees, or if your group wants to adopt a reforestation site call Becky at 507-388-1660.

Recently, a free electronics recycling collection was held at the Mall of America with thousands of people bringing their used electronic equipment. Traffic backed up as far as I-494 and the collection had to be shut down early after the Eagen-based Materials Processing Corporation was

overwhelmed with too much material. For more information  
<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/freeelectronicsrecycling.pdf>

### **Events:**

If you are in the Lake Crystal area on November 26<sup>th</sup> (Monday), check out the Crystal Loon Mills Informational Meeting at the Lake Crystal Area Rec Center. The event starts at 7 p.m. For more information go to <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/lakecrystal.pdf>

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

### **Water Quality Articles:**

- **Why Our Farm Policy Is Failing.** Time Magazine featured a comprehensive look at what has been happening with the country's agricultural policy and how it has affected the current farm bill, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/whyourfarmpolicyisfailing.pdf>
- **New fight over Big Stone power plant centers on carbon costs.** The continuing saga with the proposed Big Stone II coal plant as the backers now start to look at the future cost of carbon emissions in their planning, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/bigstonecarboncosts.pdf>
- **Coal Dryer Project Seeks To Cut Pollution.** Great American Energy is investing \$20 million to use coal dryers to cut down on pollution in North Dakota, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/coaldryerproject.pdf>
- **Burnsville co-op expands to cope with growth spurt.** After starting out in a church basement, this co-op has grown to 6,000 members in 30 years and plans to expand, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/burnsvillemcoopexpands.pdf>
- **Candidates Spare Few Words for Water.** The 2008 presidential candidates have barely mentioned the water crisis going on across the country, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/candidatesandwater.pdf>
- **Are 'climate change' and 'global warming' interchangeable?** Do we need to use one term to describe what is happening to our planet, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/climatechangeandglobalwarming.pdf>
- **Fenton Wind Project dedicated.** Fenton Wind Project in Murray and Nobles counties now have 137 wind turbines and expect to generate up to 205 megawatts of electricity, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/fentonwindfarmdedicated.pdf>
- **Weather Channel founder calls global warming a scam.** One more opinion on what is happening to our planet when it comes to climate change or global warming, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/globalwarming scam.pdf>
- **Pawlenty touts renewable energy at global forum.** Governor Pawlenty recently went to Washington D.C. to talk about investing in alternative energy such as wind and biofuels, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/pawlentytoutsrenewableenergy.pdf>
- **Ethanol plants hit resistance as backlash extends to farm belt.** The New York Times cover the ongoing saga with ethanol, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/ethanolplantshitresistance.pdf>
- **Hybrids going full-size.** A number of automakers including Chrysler and General Motors are coming out with hybrid versions on some of their largest pickup and sport utility vehicles, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/hybridsgoingfullsize.pdf>

- **Putting Green has seed plan for organic garden.** In New Ulm two local non-profit organizations are looking to become partners in a local organic produce farm and store in 2008, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/puttinggreenorganic.pdf>
- **Ethanol celebrates a milestone.** This article from Minnesota Public Radio looks at the ethanol mandate imposed by Minnesota and how this state leads the way for the ethanol industry, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/ethanolcelebratesmilestone.pdf>
- **Minnesota's greenhouse gas emissions grow.** Two governors in the Midwest – Tim Pawlenty and Jim Doyle of Wisconsin – are working with other Midwest states to promote energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gases, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/mnemissionsgrow.pdf> and <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/globalwarmingpact.pdf>
- **Farm bill, likely stalling it until next year.** The U.S. Senate blocked the \$286 billion Farm Bill over a dispute between the parties on unrelated amendments, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/farmbillstalled.pdf>
- **Winter nights get warmer, make that, less cold.** Experts say average winter temperatures have been rising for 30 years, mostly driven by much warmer nighttime temperatures, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/winternightswarmer.pdf>
- **Neal St. Anthony: Xcel seeks better return on reduction in power use.** To combat climate change and rising greenhouse gases, Xcel and other utilities are mandated to reduce electricity sales by 1.5 percent annually by 2010, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/reducingpoweruse.pdf>
- **Hybrid buses thunder down Nicollet Mall – quietly.** Metro Transit introduced 17 new, hybrid buses that use bio-diesel fuel and get 22 percent better fuel economy, along with being cleaner and quieter, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/hybridbuses.pdf>

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.

**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](http://www.watershedalliance.blogspot.com)**

Thanks,

Scott

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