

## MINNESOTA RIVER WEEKLY UPDATE

**OCTOBER 31, 2007**

Hello all,

I hope everyone survived Halloween and the massive sugar rush that usually goes with this ever-popular holiday. Last night we were visited by some teenagers out collecting candy for the local food shelf. I guess that is better than having them out smashing pumpkins or soaping up windows.



The Minnesota River Board (MRB) will be hiring a Senior Planner to promote, coordinate, and monitor basin-wide programs and initiatives on behalf of the MRB and partners that have local, regional, state-wide implications as described in the Minnesota River annual plan. For more information:

<https://statejobs.doer.state.mn.us/JobPosting/5da486563e6973d726907faddad557a1/View>

On Sunday, the Minneapolis Star Tribune featured an article – “Is the Nation’s Supply of Water in Crisis?” – highlighting the current water usage crisis across the United States. In 2000, we used 148 trillion gallons of water, almost 500,000 gallons per person. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, only 12 states wouldn’t face some form of a water shortage before 2013. This doesn’t include Minnesota. The story reported a number of ongoing water situations:

- An epic drought in Georgia threatens the water supply for millions,
- Florida doesn’t have nearly enough water for its expected population boom,
- The Great Lakes are shrinking,
- Upstate New York’s reservoirs have dropped to record lows,
- The Sierra Nevada snowpack is melting faster each year

Ducks Unlimited, Inc. is re-opening the bid period for two contract technician positions to conduct landowner outreach and promote and administer the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) in the prairie pothole region in west-central Minnesota. Positions will be based at the NRCS Field Offices in Glenwood and St Peter. For more information:

<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/ducksunlimited.pdf>

### Home Energy Credits:

As the price of heating our homes continues to reach new levels, check out the federal government tax credits for buying energy-efficient components for your home:

- **Windows, skylights and storm doors**, recoup 10 percent of the cost of materials, up to \$200 for all qualifying windows, skylights and storm windows.
- **Roofing**, install an Energy Star-certified metal roof and get back 10 percent of the cost, up to \$500.
- **Insulation**, material must meet the 2004 International Energy Conservation Code. If it does, you can get back 10 percent of the cost, up to \$500.
- **Water heaters**, certain high-efficiency models qualify for a \$300 credit.
- **Solar power**, install a photovoltaic system to power your home and get 30 percent of the cost back, up to \$2,000.
- **Heating and cooling systems**, qualified air-conditioning and heating units provide up to a \$300 credit.

For more information: [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)

### **Events:**

On November 3<sup>rd</sup> it is “Changing the World One Bite At A Time” conference at the School Sisters of Notre Dame, SSND Mankato Provincial House Conference Center. For more information contact Lisa Coons at 507-389-4272 or [lcoons@ssndmankato.org](mailto:lcoons@ssndmankato.org)

The Friends of the Minnesota Valley is hosting their Annual Dinner on November 7<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday) starting at 5:30 p.m. at the Minnesota Valley Country Club in Bloomington. For more information [www.friendsofmnvalley.org](http://www.friendsofmnvalley.org)

The Ney Center across the Minnesota River from Henderson is hosting a Photography Week from November 11<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> including their annual meeting. For more information: [www.neycenter.org](http://www.neycenter.org)

- November 11<sup>th</sup>: 1 – 4 p.m. – Artists’ Reception
- November 12<sup>th</sup>: 6:30 p.m. – Organizing Your Digital Pictures
- November 14<sup>th</sup>: 6:30 p.m. – The Digital Camera
- November 16<sup>th</sup>: 6:30 p.m. – Photo Composition
- November 17<sup>th</sup>: 9:00 a.m. to 12noon – Annual Meeting with speaker John Cross

The TMDL team from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will be presenting the “lessons learned” from the most recent TMDL studies approved in Minnesota. The presentation will start at 8:00 a.m. on November 15 (Thursday) in the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Second Floor Conference Rooms.

CURE (Clean Up the River Environment) is hosting the 1<sup>st</sup> Ever ‘Green’ Carpet Film Festival on November 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> at the Hollywood Theater in Montevideo.

The Minnesota Naturalists’ Association Annual conference is going to be November 30<sup>th</sup> through December 2<sup>nd</sup>. For more information:  
<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/mnmammalsconference.pdf>

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

### **Water Quality Articles:**

- The debate continues about the newly passed Farm Bill, the nation’s obesity problem, and subsidies for traditional row crops including corn and soybeans:  
<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/kerneloftruth.pdf>
- Will Steger and Governor Pawlenty are bonding together over the issue of global climate change and are talking about visiting the Canadian Arctic together:  
<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/pawlentystegerbond.pdf>
- Ah, to be young and discovering nature in the outdoors. A preschool in Northfield takes a trip to a prairie to see wildlife like salamanders up close:  
<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/preschoolwonder.pdf>

- Some water resource officials are protesting the Minnesota economic disclosure law by resigning their board positions:  
<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/economicdisclosurelaw.pdf>
- According to Thomas Friedman, the greenest thing we can do is choose the right leaders because they write the rules, set the standards, etc:  
<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/greenleaders.pdf>
- Minneapolis has spent \$140 million to upgrade its water filtration system and Mayor R.T. Ryback urges residents to stop buying bottled water and wants to sell surplus water to other communities: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/minneapolistapwater.pdf>
- A botanist discovers plant species new to the state on Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community land. The plant in question – buttercup pennywort (Hydrocotyle ranunculoides): <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/newplantdiscover.pdf>
- Students at Rockford High School have been water quality monitoring for eight years by collecting benthic macroinvertebrates:  
<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/studentsmonitor.pdf>
- Red Pine Elementary School wants their students to walk or bike to school and have accepted a federal grant to get kids off the bus:  
<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/studentswalk.pdf>
- As we begin to invest in alternative energy sources including wind, public utilities are also taking a new look at nuclear plants: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/alternativeenergy.pdf>
- Arsenic contamination in some Minneapolis neighborhoods continue to cause frustration and fear as workers remove contaminated materials:  
<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/arseniccontamination.pdf>
- Even as the new Farm Bill reaches its final steps to passage in Congress, many observers say not enough reform was done especially when it comes to subsidies:  
<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/farmbillbeneficiaries.pdf>
- One firms' waste is another firm's profits as Rohn Industries Inc is headed to grossing \$5.6 million this year recycling waste paper, glass, plastic, wood pallets and electronics:  
<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/firmwastesfirmprofits.pdf>

**The Minnesota River 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 this effort.**

Thanks,

Scott

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