

Hello all,

Close to 50 people came out for the Watershed Alliance's Mussel Presentation held last weekend in New Ulm. Mike Davis and Bernard Sietman of the MN Department of Natural Resources gave a presentation on Friday night and Saturday morning led the Mussel Hike on the Cottonwood River. Everyone enjoyed themselves and best of all, we found quite a few live mussels.



Due to the success of the event, I will be working with Mike and Bernard to hold a mussel presentation next year in the Upper Minnesota Watershed. We are looking at the Chippewa River since the MN DNR has not done a mussel survey on this stream. This year's event was featured in both the New Ulm Journal and Mankato Free Press. To read more about the mussel weekend check out the following articles:

- <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/musselskeytorivercomeback.pdf>
- <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/morethanjustmussels.pdf>
- <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/exploringworldomussels.pdf>

Three Rivers Resource Conservation and Development has approved the first 11 crop establishment projects under Productive Conservation on Working Lands. Proposals included native grass seed production, hazelnut plantings, native grasses for biomass production, and hybrid poplar and willow for biomass production. The next deadline for this program is January 8, 2008. For more information on this program, along with funding for market development studies and on-farm field demonstrations for Productive Conservation Crops check out the web site: [www.threeriversrcd.org](http://www.threeriversrcd.org) or contact Joe Domeier at 507-345-7418 ext. 127 or e-mail him at [joseph.domeier@rcdnet.net](mailto:joseph.domeier@rcdnet.net).

The Rice Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is looking for a Stormwater Technician. The application deadline is 4:00 p.m. on October 5, 2007 (Friday). For more information on this position contact Rice SWCD at 507-332-5408.

Lac qui Parle County is currently updating and revising the Lac qui Parle Local Water Management Plan and will be amending the components: Five-Year Focus Plan, Executive Summary, and Cover page. To submit water management issues or be added to the mailing list for meeting notices please contact Sonja Farmer, Water Plan Coordinator at 122 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, Suite 1; Madison, MN 56256; 320-598-7321 ext. 3 or [sonja.farmer@mn.nacdnet.net](mailto:sonja.farmer@mn.nacdnet.net)

**Events:**

The 2007 Nobel Conference at Gustavus Adolphus College will be focusing on Heating Up: The Energy Debate on October 2 and 3, 2007. Speakers for the two days includes Will Steger, James E. Hanson of NASA and Joan M. Ogden from the University of California, Davis. For more information or tickets to the conference call 507-933-7520 or [collegerelations@gustavus.edu](mailto:collegerelations@gustavus.edu)

Mark your calendar for the 2007 Meander – Upper Minnesota River Art Crawl to be held on October 5 – 7 to be held at 45 sites from Granite Falls to Clinton. For more information call 866-866-5432 or [www.artsmeander.com](http://www.artsmeander.com)

The Minnesota River Watershed Alliance will be holding its next quarterly meeting on October 16<sup>th</sup> from 6 pm. to 9 p.m. at the New Century Charter School in Hutchinson. We will be picking the "Clean Up the Minnesota River" issue for 2008. For more information [www.watershedalliance.blogspot.com](http://www.watershedalliance.blogspot.com)

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency is holding series of public information meetings on "Minnesota's List of 'Polluted Waters.'" Meetings in the Minnesota Watershed include October 8<sup>th</sup> at the MPCA Marshall Office and October 17<sup>th</sup> at the Blue Earth County Library in Mankato. Both meetings go from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Check out more up-coming events click on the calendar at <http://mrbdc.mnsu.edu/calendar/index.html>

#### **Grant Opportunity:**

The open application period for funding through the Clean Water Legacy Grant program by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) will be from October 1<sup>st</sup> to November 15<sup>th</sup>, pending final approval by the BWSR board: [http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/CWL\\_fundingMemo.pdf](http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/CWL_fundingMemo.pdf). The Minnesota River Board can be of assistance if you are looking for an approved organization when applying for Clean Water Legacy funds. For more information contact Shannon Fisher at 507-389-5690.

Applications for the Surface Water Assessment Grants, Administered by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency will also be available by October 1<sup>st</sup>, For more information contact Larry Gunderson at 651-297-3825 or [larry.gunderson@pca.state.mn.us](mailto:larry.gunderson@pca.state.mn.us)

The Environmental Assistance Fiscal Year 2008 (FY08) Grant Round is now posted at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency web site: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/grants/eagrants.html>. The deadline for submittal of Preliminary Applications is October 29, 2007.

#### **Water quality related articles:**

The proposed construction of the Big Stone II Coal Plant continues to make the news. After two partners dropped out of the project, the remaining companies have proposed a smaller version of the power plant.

- "Partners in Big Stone II plan smaller version" at <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/bigstonellsmaller.pdf>
- Neal St. Anthony: Big Stone II events may signal end of coal era" at <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/bigstonellendera.pdf>
- Big Stone II project is shaken after two partners withdraw from the proposed coal plant construction: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/bigstonellshakened.pdf>
- Energy consultant says Big Stone II costs will rise after two partners leave the coal plant project: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/bigstonellcosts.pdf>
- Even with two partners out, Missouri River Energy Services holds firm to building Big Stone II Coal Plant: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/2partnersout.pdf>

The editors of the Star Tribune are calling for federal subsidies to protect our grasslands and not endanger them: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/prairieslowtheplow.pdf>

"Well water safety isn't something most people spend a lot of time worrying about but maybe should": <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/arsenicstests.pdf>

Research points to agriculture runoff as at least partly the source for frog deformities in recent years: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/frogdeformities.pdf>

Mussels get a helping hand after being smothered by invading zebra mussels as state and federal agencies struggle to save this endangered species: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/musselsgethelpinghand.pdf>

An editorial by Rolf Nordstrom of the Great Plains Institute on pursuing a long-term energy plan – with optimism: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/longtermenergyplan.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. The Watershed Alliance meets four times a year and encourages landowners and recreational users of the river to be part of this effort.**

Thank you,

Scott

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