

2009 LCCMR Allocation Recommendations to the 2009 Minnesota Legislature

In response to the 2009 proposal process, 146 proposals requesting a total of approximately \$105.3 million were received. Approximately \$26.1 million is available for 2009 funding (\$25.6 million – Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund; \$66,000 – Great Lakes Protection Account; \$400,000 – Land and Water Conservation Fund). After full consideration of all proposals received, on 12/10/08 the LCCMR made final allocation recommendations for 33 appropriations, some of which combine and/or incorporate multiple proposals from those received. These recommendations ranged from full funding for the full project and dollar amount requested to partial funding for specific project elements and partial dollar amount requested.

To see what projects have been recommended for funding go to:

http://www.lccmr.leg.mn/RequestforProposals/2009/2009_Allocation_Recommendations.pdf

Radical Abundance – A Theology of Sustainability (39th National Theological Conference)

Explore sustainability through the lens of liberation theology, and the vision of Christians working together toward social justice by considering all people as full partners in healing our planet and our communities, regardless of their social or economic status. Only in striving for sustainable relationships, rather than accumulating and consuming more for ourselves, can we discover true abundance.

This local gathering on January 21 – 23, 2009 at Gustavus Adolphus College offers the full three-day conference experience, with keynotes live via webcast from New York, and interfaith discussion small groups to consider radical ideas about abundance, sustainability, and well being. **Cost: \$20 per person** and includes printed materials and refreshments. Meals not included. Limited space is available for overnight accommodations at \$20 per night per person. **Advanced registration is necessary.**

Registration deadline: January 16, 2009; Registration contact: Office of Church Relations, Marilyn Beyer at 507-933-7001 or mbeyer@gustavus.edu. This project as a partner site is a collaboration of the Office of Church Relations and the Johnson Center for Environmental Innovation.

Minneapolis 'going green' in January

The city of Minneapolis will try to make "green choices" when ordering supplies and other goods, starting in January. A new policy means city departments will purchase environmentally preferable products when possible on all types of goods and services, which would include such things as copy paper and traffic cones.

"Buying green is good for the environment and good for the economy," said Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak. "By using the purchasing power of the City, we hope to promote environmental sustainability in Minneapolis, while also growing a new green economy. Our actions match our values when we make our purchasing choices with consideration for the environment."

Council Member Scott Benson explained: "Orders for supplies that have comparably priced, quality 'green' matches will be automatically filled by the green option. We are starting small, and we will continue incorporating green products into our approved list as technology and pricing improve to make them eligible as seamless replacements."

The policy covers the smallest to the largest purchases – with the proviso that high quality and comparable cost are maintained – from office paper, garbage bags and vehicles to lighting and heating systems and even road construction materials. To see the full policy, go [here](#). (MinnPost)

Hazelnuts Work for Environment and Income

WYCOFF — Roy Cerling had some CRP acres and was thinking about what to do with them. He was also thinking about retirement and what to do when that time came. So he turned to hazelnuts. Cerling, of Wycoff, first planted hazelnut seedlings in 1993. Now he has about 1,200 hazelnut bushes on five acres that are producing and ready for marketing.

"I was kind of looking for something to put on my CRP acres with potential for retirement income," Cerling explained. "It seemed like it was a crop that should do well in the upper Midwest, since it is indigenous to the area." Sustainability was an important factor for Cerling, too, and hazelnuts pass that test. "They are certainly more sustainable than the way row-cropping is regularly practiced in the Midwest," he noted.

For the rest of the article go to: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/hazelnuts.pdf>

Job Opportunities:

Office Manager – Pope Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)

Pope SWCD is hiring a full-time office manager. The District Office Manager serves as a coordinator for all activities in the office. This includes: payroll, accounts receivable, accounts payable, budgeting, human resources, marketing, advertising, record keeping, education, public relations, grant writing, and overall office management. Please submit a completed application, cover letter and a one or two page resume with three references no later than 4:00 p.m. January 5, 2009 (Monday) to Kelly Erickson, District Technician; Pope SWCD; 1680 Franklin Street North; Glenwood, MN 56334. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/popecoofficemanager.pdf>

Events:

December 23rd (Tuesday) is an **Open House Reception in Honor of Commissioner Charles Guggisberg** retiring after serving as District 3 Brown County Commissioner from 1988 to 2008 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Commissioner's Room 204 of the Brown County Courthouse (14 S. State) in New Ulm.

January 20th (Tuesday) is the **Minnesota River Watershed Alliance's Quarterly Meeting** starting at 6 p.m. with a social hour and food. The meeting starts at 7 p.m. and will take place at the Hutchinson Event Center. For more information contact Scott Kudelka at 507-389-2304 or scott.kudelka@mnsu.edu

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

Water Quality Articles

[Two Minnesota groups concerned about Vilsack as ag secretary](#) (Minnesota Independent). One group – Organic Consumers' Association has called for a petition by organic producers and consumers to urge Obama to block Vilsack's nomination, highlighting his support for factory farming and biotechnology.

[Concerns emerge over 'supplanting' funding](#) (Outdoor News). With the passage of the constitutional amendment to dedicate funding to natural resources, there now are two bodies charged with making recommendations to lawmakers regarding spending on outdoors issues.

[MinnErgy puts Eyota ethanol plant on indefinite hold](#) (MinnPost). The controversial ethanol plant planned for next to tiny Eyota, near Rochester in southeastern Minnesota, has been put on indefinite hold with developers of the proposed 55-million gallon plant citing low investor interest and high startup costs.

[SCSU researchers find fish vulnerable to human medications](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). The issue of pharmaceuticals making their way into the water supply is a growing concern. Earlier this year, an Associated Press investigation found prescription drugs in the drinking water of 41 million Americans.

[State's farmers worry about EPA proposal](#) (MinnPost). It's not on the books yet, but farmers in Minnesota are worried about a proposal by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that would allow the government to regulate greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act – and cost farmers big bucks.

[Minnesota sugar beet company cited for air quality violations](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). American Crystal Sugar has agreed to pay a \$185,000 civil penalty to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for air quality violations.

[10 Minnesota mayors take 'Pickens Pledge' on energy](#) (MinnPost). Ten Minnesota mayors have signed the “T Boone Pickens Pledge” - - an energy independence manifesto that urges President-elect Obama to develop such a plan for the nation within his first 100 days in office.

[Electronics recycling booms](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Dakota residents are turning in more iPods, computers and other gadgets even as the recycling market slumps.

[Minnesota farmer is attached to his yak](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). A central Minnesota farmer has a steady niche business with yak. John Hooper of Cold Spring has the largest herd of the long-haired bovine in the eastern half of the country.

[New crop tries Farming 101](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Classes at programs like one run by the Land Stewardship Project are helping guide young professionals into a new generation of farmers.

[When minnows take a chill pill](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). St. Cloud State University research found that minnows exposed to antidepressants, whose residues end up in local waters, are more laid back - which is not so great for survival.

[Almanac: Public is asked to weigh in on hefty docks](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). The proliferation of boatlifts and docks on Minnesota lakes -- and the growing size of those docks and decks -- has been a controversial issue for lakeshore owners, boaters, anglers and the Department of Natural Resources.

I am pessimistic about the human race because it is too ingenious for its own good. Our approach to nature is to beat it into submission. We would stand a better chance of survival if we accommodated ourselves to this planet and viewed it appreciatively instead of skeptically and dictatorially. – E.B. White

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

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