

Minnesota River Weekly Update

January 2, 2008

Happy New Years! Another year is upon us and I want thank everyone who has helped contribute to this email weekly update. I hope to gather more ideas, stories, events, activities and other information on what is happening in the Minnesota River Watershed.



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.

Roxanne Franke is the new Maple River Clean Water Partnership Technician. She started on December 11th and replaces Jonathan Hanson who left in October. You can contact Roxanne at Blue Earth County Soil and Water Conservation District 1160 Victory Dr. Suite 3; Mankato, MN 56001 roxanne.franke@mn.nacdn.net (507)-345-4744, ext. 125; (507)-345-6036 FAX

The Land – Minnesota's rural life magazine – is interested to hear from anyone who has something to say about rural life in Minnesota. This magazine reaches an estimated 90,000 people including farmers, agri-business members and rural residents across the state of Minnesota. Recently they ran an edited version of a message on Big Stone II Coal Plant by Patrick Moore. If you have a coherent, concise and of relevance message to their readership contact The Land magazine at 1-800-657-4665 or go to www.thelandonline.com

The Lyon Soil & Water Conservation District is looking for a Conservation Technician to be responsible for a wide-range of duties including tree work, implementation of conservation projects and other tasks. For more information: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/lyonswcd.pdf>

Events:

As we enter the New Year there are a number of significant events coming up in the next month or so. Here are a few of them:

On January 10th (Thursday) at 6 p.m. there will be a **Hearing on the proposed Big Stone II Coal Plant** at 200 Monroe Avenue in Ortonville, MN. This hearing is for anyone concerned about further mercury pollution of the river and global warming. A mock press conference is going to be held outside the hearing. For more information contact Patrick Moore (cure-ed@info-link.net) or Duane Ninneman (cure-dd@info-link.net) at the CURE office (1-877-269-2873). Or Cesia Kearns of the Sierra Club at 612-659-9124 ext 310 or cesia.kearns@sierraclub.org

A **Minnesota BMP CHALLENGE & Water Quality Credit Trading (WQT) Workshop** is also being held on January 10th (Thursday) from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (lunch will be provided) at Redwood Valley Lodge; 1382 E. Bridge Street; Redwood Falls. For more information contact Lori Steckervetz, BMP CHALLENGE Program Coordinator at 608-232-1425 or lori.steckervetz@bmpchallenge.org

On January 17th (Thursday) Carrie Jennings, Glacial Geologist with the MN Geological Survey will be doing a **"The Geology of the Minnesota River"** presentation starting at 7:00 p.m. at the Chippewa County Courthouse Assembly Room in Montevideo. The entire family will enjoy this visual exploration of the Minnesota River Valley. Refreshments will be served. For more information contact Scott Kudelka at 507-389-2304 or scott.kudelka@mnsu.edu. Or Patrick Moore at 1-877-269-2873 or cure-ed@info-link.net

Climate Change in Minnesota is the topic on January 17th (Thursday) from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Center; 3815 American Blvd East; Bloomington.

Jeffrey Corney, Associate Director of the Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve will describe the changes Minnesota will experience and studies being done to help create these future climate models. For more information call 952-854-5900 or minnesotavalley@fws.gov

On January 19th (Saturday) bring the family out to the Ney Nature Center (28003 Nature Center Lane, Henderson) to experience nature's wonders during the winter season. Participate in seasonal activities for all ages in and out-of-doors. Registration is required by Monday, January 14th. For more information contact the Ney Nature Center at info@neycenter.org or visit the web site at www.neycenter.org

On January 23rd (Wednesday) is the **Hawk Creek Watershed Information & Appreciation Meeting** at the Kandi Entertainment Center (500 19th Ave. SE, Willmar). The meeting will include presentations related to water quality and land management issues.

- Conservation Drainage
- BMP Challenge & Water Quality Trading
- Fingerprinting Sources of Sediment in the MN River
- Raingardens for Water Quality

Please call the Hawk Creek Watershed Project at 320-523-3666 by January 15, 2008 to reserve your meal. The meeting is open to the public.

January 28th (Monday) is the **Minnesota River Board Meeting** at the Chippewa County Courthouse Conference Room (629 North 11th Street) in Montevideo. The Board will be electing the new Executive Committee. For more information contact Diane Wiley at 507-389-2304 or diane.wiley@mnsu.edu

February 1st (Friday) is the **Sustainable Farming Association of Minnesota Youth Day** – “Youth Sustainability Confabulation (from the Latin word confabulari, meaning “to talk together”) at the Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, MN. The event is for everyone and runs from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

February 2nd (Saturday) is the 17th annual **Sustainable Farming Association's Conference – “Local Foods: The Next Step”** at the Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, MN. Registration starts at 8:30 a.m. and the conference runs to 4:15 with a Minnesota Wine and Local Cheese Reception. Breakout Sessions will include:

- The Ins and Outs of CSAs
- Direct Marketing Your Way
- Local All Winter
- Meat Producers: Pasture to Plate
- Food Co-ops: All Shapes & Sizes
- Making Sure It's Local
- Food vs Fuel: Local Production
- Peace with Big Box
- Knitting a Food System: Bringing Local & Artisan Cheese and Wine to Market

For more information on this conference and the Minnesota Youth Day contact Anne Borgendale at communications@sfa-mn.org or 320-226-6318. Or visit the web site: www.sfa-mn.org for the registration form and other information.

February 5th (Tuesday) is the 7th Annual Road Salt Symposium at Crowne Plaza in Brooklyn Center. “Decrease impacts of winter maintenance on the environment and infrastructure while maintaining safety. It is sponsored by Freshwater Society. For more information: http://www.freshwater.org/2008_Freshwater_Media/2008_road_salt_brochure.pdf

February 9th (Saturday) is the **CURE (Clean Up the River Environment) Annual Meeting** at the Hollywood Theater in Montevideo. Waziyatawin Angela Wilson, PhD is the guest speaker. Her topic is The Dakota People and the Minnesota River. Hear about the untold story of the forced

marches between Montevideo, Mankato and Fort Snelling after the Dakota War of 1862 ended at Camp Release. For more information contact the CURE office at 1-877-269-2873 or go to their web site at www.curemriver.org

February 19th (Tuesday) is the next quarterly meeting of the Minnesota River Watershed Alliance at the New Century Charter School in Hutchinson. The meeting will start at 6:00 p.m. with a social hour and food. The regular meeting will get going at 7:00 p.m. and we try to wrap up by 9:00 p.m.

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

Some New Year Resolutions to think about in 2008:

- Be informed with what is going on in the Minnesota River Watershed by attending local government meetings, joining a conservation organization or participating in an area event.
- Become a citizen volunteer by monitoring your favorite lake, river or wetland. Many watershed groups have citizen monitoring programs or contact the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and Minnesota Waters.
- Take part in a community clean-up. Throughout the MN River Watershed you will find groups like CURE, Friends of the MN Valley and Mankato Paddling Club sponsoring river-related clean-ups.
- Put in a rain garden or rain barrel to help filter runoff from your house and other buildings before it enters a stormwater system or water body like a river, lake and wetland.
- Visit a business that is producing a local product. A number of places come to mind including Moonstone Farms (beef), Morgan Creek Vineyard, St. Peter Food Co-op, and Earthrise Farms.
- Paddle your favorite river or try a new one. The Minnesota River Watershed features a vast diversity of streams to paddle, whether it is a fast one like the Hawk Creek or a more leisure float on the Chippewa River.

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

Thank you,

Scott

Scott Kudelka
Minnesota River Watershed Alliance
Communications Coordinator
Water Resources Center
184 Trafton Science Center S
Mankato, MN 56001
507-389-2304
scott.kudelka@mnsu.edu
<http://watershedalliance.blogspot.com>