

Minnesota River Watershed Alliance Meeting

Twenty-five people gathered last night in Hutchinson for the quarterly meeting of the Minnesota River Watershed Alliance (Watershed Alliance). It was great to see a number of new faces and hear their view points on how the Watershed Alliance should operate. The group reviewed the Watershed Alliance agreement and voted to continue with its original intent. Four new people were voted on the coordinating team for the Watershed Alliance:

- Susie Carlin, Minnesota River Board;
- James Fett, MSUM Student and Maple River CWP;
- Chantill Kahler-Royer, Bolton-Menk;
- Brooke Patterson, Rush River CWP

We also discussed the Living Systems Project – currently the focus of Watershed Alliance – in great detail with numerous viewpoints on how to move forward. Finally, the group brought forth a number of potential projects for consideration by the Watershed Alliance:

- An Event focus with nontraditional constituents,
- Produce a TV documentary on the Minnesota River incorporating aerial photography,
- MN River Friendly Label and MN River Paddle Patch/Decal Program,
- Cross Fertilization between Lake Pepin and MN River groups,
- Backyard Drainage Awareness Campaign

All of these projects and the Living Systems Project will be discussed in greater detail at the next quarterly meeting on January 20, 2009 (Tuesday).

Seeing without understanding - An Outdoor Column from: Tom Conroy

An uneasy curiosity with tagging along as I approached the familiar woods I had hunted for years. The soggy field road leading in was chewed up and deeply rutted, littered with small branches and wood chips. What was going on?

The answer came soon enough. Reaching the woods on that early November morning, I was taken aback by what I saw. Scattered remnants of fallen timber were all around. I scarcely recognized the place. Bewilderment quickly gave way to frustration, frustration to anger. Why would someone cut down these wonderful trees? For the rest of the story, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/biomass.pdf>

Lake Pepin TMDL Technical Conference presentations now on web site.

Greetings All! The presentations given at the recent Lake Pepin TMDL Technical Conference, "Creating a Blueprint for Restoration," have been posted on the MPCA web site at the following location:

<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/tmdl/tmdl-lakepepin.html> - Norman Senjem, Lake Pepin TMDL Project Coordinator

IS OUR WATER AT RISK? - Examining the Land/Water Connection

This panel presentation will be held on October 22nd (Wednesday) from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church (Warren and Broad streets) in Mankato. Parking is available in lots off Broad Street. The panelists will be:

- Dr. Henry Quade, Founder of MSU's Water Resources Center
- Dr. Shannon Fisher, Director of the Minnesota River Board
- State Representative Kathy Brynaert, Environment and Natural Resources Committee Member

Our presenters will provide information on water quantity and quality, land usage and pertinent legislation affecting southern Minnesota. A question and answer period will follow and water will be served so everyone can try our taste test.

Growing Your Own: Sustaining Farm, Family and Environment

When she'd had enough of medical school, Heidi Morlock traded in her dreams of exam rooms and stethoscopes for fertile soil and fresh air. She decided to be a farmer instead.

Morlock's family found a way to sustain a farming operation, eat good food and take care of the environment on Seven Story Farm located between Jordan and Belle Plaine.

For the rest of the story: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/growingyourown.pdf>

Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Basin Water Resources Compact

The Great Lakes are now securely protected from diversion and misuse following ratification of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Basin Water Resources Compact. The historic agreement among states sets strong standards for water use within the Great Lakes basin.

The Great Lakes contain nearly 20 percent of the world's freshwater supply and over 90 of the fresh surface water in the United States. They are a vast resource, but each year rainfall and snowmelt replenish only about one percent of the water in the basin. The other 99 percent is finite and nonrenewable.

This success helps ensure the future of the Great Lakes for diverse wildlife that rely on them. The water agreement is the capstone of ten years of hard work by the National Wildlife Federation and partners in the Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition.

Thanks so much to all of you who helped us achieve this huge victory! You can learn more about the National Wildlife Federation's work in the Great Lakes region at nwf.org/greatlakes.

Sierra Club fundraiser "Sock-athon"

The goal of this event is to raise one million dollars for the Sierra Club through the sale of Sierra Club earth-friendly socks. For every pair of socks purchased, the Sierra Club receives ten percent of the proceeds and for every pair purchased, one pair will also be donated to the National Coalition for the Homeless.

Starting on November 1st the fundraiser will take place on line at www.sierraclubsocks.com

For more information: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/sockathon.pdf>

Job Opportunities

GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP – FISH BIOASSESSMENT

The Water Resources Center at Minnesota State University, Mankato, in conjunction with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, is seeking a Graduate Research Assistant (M.S.) to start in January 2009 to work on a fisheries and water quality project.

Activities will include water quality monitoring, fish assemblage assessment, total maximum daily load processes, watershed delineations, habitat assessments, utility of the EPA and the recently developed state of Minnesota stressor identification tools, and participation in the public and agency procedures for impaired waters research. Thesis research will be supported by these activities and will focus on fish assemblage history, current status, and identification of stressors that may lead to fish diversity losses.

For more information go to: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/wrcgraduateresearchassist.pdf>

Biomass Conservation Technician

Scott Soil and Water Conservation District is hiring a 1 Year Biomass Conservation Technician. This individual will perform necessary duties to research, develop and implement a biomass

production program that identifies new and existing sources of marketable biomass and prepare standards and specifications for the materials needed by bio-energy production facilities. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/biomasstechnician.pdf> and <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/biomasstechposition.pdf>

Water Quality Coordinator

The Southeast Minnesota Water Resources Board is seeking a Water Quality Coordinator. A successful candidate will have experience in grant writing, managing multiple projects and a good understanding of the environmental issues facing water quality in Southeast Minnesota. The candidate must be self-directed and able to take general environmental concepts and direction from the Board and translate those ideas into a detailed plans and projects encompassing the 10-county Southeast Minnesota region. The salary is dependent upon work experience and education (\$14.50 to \$23.20). This position is funded at a half time level with insurance benefits. Work hours may increase to full-time in the future, if grant funding becomes available. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/waterqualitycoordinator.pdf>

Events:

October 25th (Saturday) is the **17th Annual CURE River Clean Up** from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. along the "Hungry Hollow" stream that leads to the Minnesota River in East Granite Falls. CURE is teaming up this year with the Granite Falls Chamber of Commerce to organize Saturday's clean up, which will start from Carl's Bakery on Main Street at 11 a.m. on Saturday.

October 26th (Sunday) is the **CURE Highway Cleanup** from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on a 2-mile stretch of Highway 212 along the Minnesota River between Granite Falls and Montevideo. Volunteers are asked to meet at the Minnesota River landing in Wegdahl at 2:00 p.m.

Everyone is being encouraged to get out and enjoy the fall weather fall and the company other volunteers. Clean up participants should be prepared to get dirty. Gloves, boots, and water bottles are recommended. For more information, contact clean up organizer Brooke Herling at (320) 269-2984 or <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/curecleanup.pdf>

October 30th (Thursday) is the **2008 Friends of the Minnesota Valley Annual Dinner** from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Minnesota Valley Country Club in Bloomington.

- Keynote Speakers: **John Cross and Tim Krohn of the Mankato Free Press** and their presentation: "**Minnesota River Voyage**" – from their 10th anniversary canoe trip down the entire length of the Minnesota River and the people they met along the way.
- R.S.V.P. – contact Lori Nelson, Executive Director at 952-881-9065 or lnelson@friendsofmnvalley.org

November 15th (Saturday) is the **Web of Life, Way of Life: Exploring Solidarity with Earth Conference** at the School Sisters of Notre Dame Mankato Provincial House Conference Center from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Registration is required by November 10th by calling 507-389-4272 or sending an email to lcoons@ssndmankato.org. Cost for the event is \$20 or \$15 for students. Look for morning coffee and locally grown lunch. This event is sponsored by Center for Earth Spirituality and Rural Ministry – a ministry of the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

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

Water Quality Articles

[Vote yes on clean water](#) (Minnesota Daily). Lately, I have been very concerned with what will happen on Nov. 4. We have no power as citizens of this country, anymore, it seems. We are

supposed to pick one of two candidates to be the President of the United States of America; otherwise, it is seen as a “waste” of our all-powerful vote.

[Good Question: Who Is T. Boone Pickens?](#) (WCCO TV). He’s not running for office, but you can’t escape the TV commercials being paid by T. Boone Pickens. So who is this guy? And what is his plan?

[Minnetonka man sent to prison for violating environmental law](#) (Sun Current). A Minnetonka resident, who is the CEO of a Fridley finishing company, was sentenced to 15 months in prison for violating federal environmental law.

Opinion: [Rep. Dennis Ozment: Long-term problems need long-term funding. Vote 'yes' to protect our precious waters](#) (Pioneer Press). The Minnesota Legislature must balance the budget every two years. And like sands falling in an hourglass, the money rapidly disappears.

[Minnesota Amendment Draws Controversy](#) (WDIO TV – Duluth). On November 4th, Minnesota voters will be asked whether or not they support tax increase to pay for Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment.

[Modern wildlife management began 150 years ago](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). Hunting seasons are underway in Minnesota. People are in the field all over Minnesota, hunting for ducks and geese, moose and deer. For many Minnesota families, the season opener -- and later weekends in the woods -- are important points on the calendar -- days and nights filled with traditions and memories of good times. But there was a time, not much more than 100 years ago, when it looked as though people would kill so many animals, there wouldn't be any left for future generations.

[VanRisseghem brothers get creative with left over logs](#) (Morrison Country Record). Brent and Chris VanRisseghem admit they like foosball. It was logical when Brent VanRisseghem was building his new home and had many trees that had to be cut down, they would make a foosball table with the logs.

[Can green jobs save us?](#) (Pioneer Press). (Politico) This may be hard to believe, but John McCain and Barack Obama actually agree on something: An explosion of new green jobs is the way to get the U.S. economy back on track.

[More stores promoting use of reusable bags](#) (Pioneer Press). At Byerly's in Eagan on a recent weekend, store clerks bagged groceries as they always do — but with one big difference.

[City's first rain garden nears completion](#) (Owatonna People's Press). The garden has been planted with 13 different native varieties, including daylilies, iris and Black Eyed Susans. Owatonna Storm Water Manager Matt Durand said he gave the rain garden an undulating appearance and added some honey locust trees, just to give the long green patch more character.

[Sustained by solar energy](#) (Mankato Free Press). Bruce McKay became enamored with green before it morphed from a mere color into a societal imperative. My interest in sustainable energy started in the '70s," the 50-year-old electrical engineer said.

[Solar power isn't new](#) (New Ulm Journal). Solar energy concepts have been around for decades, but recent calls for alternative energy have made the concept increasingly attractive.

[Dennis Anderson: We're also accountable to the land](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Wall Street might have shirked its responsibilities, but we squander our planet's resources at our own peril. The consequences are even more dire.

[Big Stone II officials waiting for completion of study](#) (Marshall Independent). An independent study on the proposed Big Stone II coal burning power generation facility is expected in the next couple weeks.

[State reviews how to measure groundwater contaminants](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). Collegeville, Minn. — The Minnesota Department of Health will present updated rules to evaluate contaminants in groundwater and their health risks before an administrative law judge this Friday.

[Hobby turns part-time job in CSA garden](#) (Mankato Free Press). Rachel Hollerich had done some gardening in the past, including taking produce to Farmers' Market. The West High School math teacher decided to take food a little closer to people last summer.

[Farmers, ethanol industry experiment with biomass](#) (Associated Press). Corn cobs have long been used as a fuel, helping Minnesotans warm their houses or heat up an oven to bake bread. But during this year's harvest in western Minnesota, those corn cobs are being collected to fuel a local ethanol plant.

[Wind energy could spring up in central Minnesota, too](#) (Associated Press). Roy Seppelt never thought much about the wind that sways his rows of corn until an energy company came calling his name.

[Energy costs: Less power means more profit](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Water misters like the one over CEO dik Bolger's head saved \$43,000 in the first nine months they were in use at Bolger Printing, he said.

The Oration

*Ho, every mother's son and daughter,
There's a gospel in the water;
Here's the ancient gospel way;
Here's the road to endless day;
Here begins the reign of heaven;
Here your sins shall be forgiven;
Every mother's son and daughter,
Here's the gospel in the water.*

*All ye sons of Adam's race
Come and share the watery grace.
Water gives the soul promotion;
Water is the healing lotion.
Water purifies the nation;
Water is regeneration.*

*Every mother's son and daughter,
Here's the gospel in the water.* — by Job Odell, owner of the Fountain Spring Mill on Elk Creek, Delaware County ca 1856

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

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.](mailto:scott.kudelka@mnsu)