

### **Minnesota River Board Reorganized**

A bill has been signed by Governor Tim Pawlenty makes a number of changes to the purpose, duties and membership structure of the Minnesota River Board (MRB). The bill was sponsored by Representative Terry Morrow from St. Peter and Senator Dennis Frederickson from New Ulm. In addition, the MRB will be required to submit reports on the progress of water cleanup efforts within the basin. This change in reorganization was featured last Thursday on KEYC TV 12 Mankato: <http://www.keyc.tv/news?page=3>

### **Paddle the Chippewa River**

The Chippewa River Watershed Project is sponsoring an opportunity to get out on the river. On Saturday, June 13, 2009 the Chippewa River Watershed Project will be offering a guided tour down the Chippewa River. This trip is easily navigable by beginners and families.

The trip starts at 9:30 am. We will launch from the bridge access on Chippewa County Road 9 (Big Bend) and travel downstream to the County Road 12 crossing. Estimated paddle time of 2 1/2 hours. Box lunches will be provided to those that RSVP. Parking will be available at the Big Bend Lutheran Church. Call if you need directions.

Bring your own canoe or kayak. CRWP will help to shuttle people between the start and end points, both prior to the trip and at the conclusion. Boat drop off and shuttle starts at 8:45 am. Be sure to bring your life jackets, bug spray, and sunscreen. A limited number of canoes are available for use; call the CRWP office to reserve a space.

This is an event for the whole family. Make plans to float the river and bring a friend! The flyer is attached. Pass along the information to others that may be interested. Sign-up for the canoe trip is appreciated.

Release forms will be required prior to participation. For more information or to reserve canoe space call Jennifer at 320-269-2139 x120 or email [jennifer.hoffman@rcdnet.net](mailto:jennifer.hoffman@rcdnet.net).

For additional information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/chippewacanoetripflyer.pdf>

### **Free Rain Gardening Class at Bush Lake Isaak Walton– June 3<sup>rd</sup>**

On Wednesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> from 6:00-7:30pm, learn ways to make your yard more drought-tolerant and able to take advantage of the rain, benefitting your home landscape and reducing your water-bill and your yard's storm-water run-off.

Gregg Thompson, the instructor is a former landscape contractor, who now trains other landscape contractors on how to create and manage more environmentally-friendly landscapes to preserve our shared water resources. Bring or email photos of your yard to get personal advice.

This 'how-to' / 'do-it yourself' program will be presented at the lodge at the Izaak Walton League Chapter on Bush Lake, at 7515 Izaak Walton Road in Bloomington. For directions go to: <http://www.bushlakeikes.org> The class is free and open to the public, but please send an RSVP email registration (name & number of people attending) to [BushLake@bushlakeikes.org](mailto:BushLake@bushlakeikes.org).

### **MPCA TARGETS \$1.57 MILLION TO CLEAN UP DIESEL ENGINES IN MINNESOTA Recovery Act grant program is open to big and small fleets.**

St. Paul, Minn. -- The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) will be releasing \$1.57 million in grant money from the Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA) for clean diesel projects in the state. These DERA funds were made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Diesel emissions are a major source of harmful air pollutants, including fine particulate matter, along with volatile organic compounds and nitrogen oxides that contribute to ozone formation. After-market technology systems can capture particles and reduce diesel emissions.

The clean diesel grants will be open to public and private diesel fleet owners, from small "mom and pop" operations, to cities, counties and corporate fleets. Both on-road and nonroad equipment are eligible through this program, including long-haul trucks, heavy-duty public fleets, buses, construction equipment, mining equipment, locomotives and even stationary generators. The MPCA has created an application form and process for fleet owners to apply.

"These Minnesota Clean Diesel grants will not only reduce diesel emissions in our state, they will support the diesel-related manufacturing, assembly and sales jobs both in Minnesota and around the country," explained David Thornton, assistant commissioner for air policy at the MPCA. Grant funds will be available for a wide range of clean-diesel projects like idle reduction technology, including the installation of auxiliary power units to efficiently heat and cool a truck cab while idling - instead of having the big truck engine running. Idle reduction grants are a win-win situation by reducing emissions and saving the operators money.

Grant money will also be available to retrofit diesel vehicles with pollution-reducing technology, including particulate filter traps and diesel oxidation catalysts, and for engine "repowers" - replacing an older engine with a newer, cleaner one.

Finally, grant assistance will also aid public entities with the purchase of hybrid replacement vehicles. There will be applicant match requirements for some of the offered technologies. The MPCA has established a Web page to help with the application process; a Request for Proposals, application forms and related materials are available at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/air/cleandiesel-grants.html>

The MPCA anticipates applications from a broad range of large and small commercial and government diesel operators around the state. The agency is also an active partner of diesel emission reductions by working with Clean Air Minnesota and supporting Project Green Fleet, which has retrofitted more than 1,200 diesel school buses in Minnesota with emission-reduction technology.

## **Job Announcements:**

### **Administration / Membership Assistant**

Minnesota Waters seeks an energetic, hard-working self-starter to manage membership and general office tasks in our St. Cloud office. The position is 30 hours per week, with flexible hours and great benefits. Minnesota Waters is a non-profit organization that helps citizens across the state take action to save our lakes and rivers. Position requires strong computer skills, including Microsoft Word, Excel and Outlook, as well as database experience. Qualified applicants will be comfortable working with minimal supervision in a fast-paced environment, and good at multitasking, solving problems, and providing great customer service. At least two years office/clerical/database experience preferred. Persons with a passion to protect our natural resources encouraged to apply. Hourly compensation is dependent on qualifications. A full job description can be found at [www.minnesotawaters.org](http://www.minnesotawaters.org). Send resume and cover letter to [marianb@minnesotawaters.org](mailto:marianb@minnesotawaters.org) before June 15, 2009.

### **Conservation Technician**

Fillmore SWCD has a job opening for a fulltime Conservation Technician. Job applications are due by June 9, 2009, to the Fillmore SWCD office. The Conservation Technician performs a variety of technical duties to support the activities of the SWCD. Work involves development of conservation plans for state and federal programs, water quality monitoring and monitoring equipment maintenance, GIS mapping and data management, providing technical information

and education to landowners, providing technical assistance for the District's administration of the Wetland Conservation Act, and survey/design of conservation practices. Incumbent may also assist with other duties as assigned.

Applicants must submit a completed Fillmore SWCD application, resume, and cover letter for employment. Applications may be obtained at 900 Washington St. NW, Preston, MN 55965 or by calling 507-765-3878 Ext. 3 or at [www.fillmoreswcd.org](http://www.fillmoreswcd.org)

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

### **Farm Beginnings Program Organizer**

MN Land Stewardship Project is Farm Beginnings is looking to hire a facilitator (Program Organizer) for their Farm Beginnings Program in the Driftless Region (SE MN, NE IA and W WI). The position will be based in the Lewiston, MN Land Stewardship Project office. Application is due by June 19, 2009 with a start date on July 1, 2009.

Farm Beginnings(r) is committed to more successful, sustainable farmers raising livestock and crops on the land, through farmer- led seminars and mentoring, in Minnesota and beyond. Farm Beginnings is equally committed to leadership development toward positive social change. Farm Beginnings provides farmer to farmer training, education, mentoring, and zero interest livestock loans to help beginning farmers start or transition into sustainable farming practices.

This Farm Beginnings Organizer position will work directly with beginning and established farmers as well as helping to build larger community support and understanding around beginning farmer issues. As a result of this important work, by 2017, Farm Beginnings(r) will have a substantial impact on the larger society and future rural landscape. Please submit a cover letter, resume and writing sample to: Karen Stettler, Farm Beginnings Program Director, [stettler@landstewardshipproject.org](mailto:stettler@landstewardshipproject.org) or Land Stewardship Project, P.O. Box 130, Lewiston, MN 55952, 507-523-3366.

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

### **Feedlot Technician**

The Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District is hiring a Feedlot Technician. The purpose of this position is to provide natural resource engineering assistance to Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) in a 12 county area, including Benton, Big Stone, Chippewa, Douglas, Kandiyohi, Meeker, Morrison, Pope, Stearns, Stevens, Swift and Todd Counties. The technician will work closely with the County Feedlot Officers, SWCD engineer and technicians from each of the twelve counties. The main responsibilities will be to provide technical assistance to livestock producers who have signed the [Open Lot Agreement](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/hot/feedlot-openlot.html) (<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/hot/feedlot-openlot.html>) in correcting their feedlot runoff problems.

Application closing date is June 26, 2009 – application must be post marked by this date. The purpose of this position is to provide natural resource engineering assistance to Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) in a 12 county area, including Benton, Big Stone, Chippewa, Douglas, Kandiyohi, Meeker, Morrison, Pope, Stearns, Stevens, Swift and Todd Counties. The technician will work closely with the County Feedlot Officers, SWCD engineer and technicians from each of the twelve counties. The main responsibilities will be to provide technical assistance to livestock producers who have signed the [Open Lot Agreement](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/hot/feedlot-openlot.html) (<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/hot/feedlot-openlot.html>) in correcting their feedlot runoff problems.

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

### **Land Services Supervisor**

Crow Wing County is hiring a Land Services Supervisor for Nature Resource Management. This is a leadership position within the Land Services Department, responsible for directing, managing,

and measuring work of the forestry, recreation and tax forfeit land operations and related programs of the Natural Resources Management Department. The position operates under the supervision of the Land Services Director, performing County Land Commissioner functions at the direction of the Land Services Director. The position has accountability for a number of distinct functions encompassing the administration of county timber harvest goals and forest management practices, planning and management of county parks, trails and related recreational components and the overall disposition and management of county tax forfeited lands.

A Crow Wing County application is required and must be received in the Human Resource office by 5:00 pm on Friday, June 5, 2009. For more information:

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

### **Events:**

June 6<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) is **Take Your Kid Fishing Event** from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon at Robinson Park in Lake Crystal. Bring your own spinning rod and reel or check out one on a first-come first-serve basis. Other activities include fishing & casting games, water quality activities and booths to learn about native Minnesota mussels, fish & aquatic bugs. A DNR conservation officer will be on hand with a patrol boat to answer questions about fishing safety & regulations. The Lake Crystal Wellcome Memorial Spanish Club will have food for sale throughout the day as a fundraiser for their annual trip to Spain.

June 7<sup>th</sup> (Sunday) is the **Minnesota River Valley National Scenic Byway Favorite Moments – Favorite Places presentation** at Fort Ridgely State Park. Photographer Ron Bolduan presents a collection of his favorite images from 10 years of wandering the Minnesota River Valley National Scenic Byway.

June 16<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday) is the **Cottonwood River Canoe Trip** hosted by the Redwood Cottonwood Rivers Control Area (RCRCA). The trip will start at the canoe access on County Road 11 and paddled into Flandrau State Park in New Ulm. For more information, [http://www.rcrca.com/canoe\\_trip\\_home.htm](http://www.rcrca.com/canoe_trip_home.htm)

June 18<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) is the **Redwood River Canoe Trip** hosted by the Redwood Cottonwood Rivers Control Area (RCRCA). The paddle will go from County Road 6 into Redwood Lake at Redwood Falls. Meet at Perk's Place to be driven out to the put-in point. For more information, [http://www.rcrca.com/canoe\\_trip\\_home.htm](http://www.rcrca.com/canoe_trip_home.htm)

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

### **Water Quality Articles:**

[Edina green project offers lesson in red tape](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Some young entrepreneurs in Edina wanted to grow a garden in a park, but by the time they get the city's approval, it will be too late.

[Hmong anglers enjoy new access to white bass](#) (WCCO TV). About 100 white bass hitched a short ride recently between two small Ramsey County lakes, but the fish relocation was a bigger step in relations between the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and Southeast Asian anglers.

[Do the fawn a favor: Look, don't touch](#) (Winona Daily News). The sight of a newborn fawn alone in Fran Oksness' front yard caused passers-by to contract what Oksness jokingly calls "poor Bambi syndrome."

[Government report says carbon dioxide pollution will grow 40 percent by 2030 without controls.](#) (Associated Press). Government report says carbon dioxide pollution will grow 40 percent by 2030 without controls.

[U researchers implement wireless water sensors](#) (MN Daily). Sensors provide researchers and recreational water users with up-to-the-minute data.

[Residents along river relieved by changes to law](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). The law calling for the DNR to set rules for development along the Mississippi River was modified in committee hearings and signed off on by the governor.

[Session produced positives and some disappointments for ag](#) (Agri News). The 2009 legislative session included positives for agriculture and agriculture-related issues, lobbyists for Minnesota Farm Bureau and Minnesota Farmers Union said.

[Uncertainty remains for agriculture in budget process](#) (Agri News). The legislators have gone home, but uncertainty as to the outcome of the session lingers. The Legislature sent Gov. Tim Pawlenty all their budget bills and a tax bill, which included tax increases. Pawlenty vetoed the tax bill and said he would unallot \$2.7 billion to balance the state's books for the biennium.

[Grow your own vegetables at home](#) (Kare 11). It's economical, very local and it's from your own backyard. Something called 'Garden-in-a-Box' is a new community outreach program to make gardening possible for those living in condos, apartments, housing projects and other locations without access to a useable garden space.

[Good Question: Do White Roofs Save Energy?](#) (WCCO TV). For every gallon of gas we burn, we pump about 20 pounds of carbon dioxide into the air. Over time, that's a lot of greenhouse gas.

[Obama administration orders 1-year moratorium on most road-building in national forests](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). The Obama administration is ordering a one-year moratorium on most road-building and other development on about 50 million acres of remote national forests.

[Best Buy on board for green television labeling](#) (MinnPost). Best Buy is among a consortium of retailers and manufacturers ready to roll out a new voluntary, green labeling system for televisions.

[Boards plug away at securing railway spur over Minnesota River for bike trail](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). A six-mile railway spur across the Minnesota River could be a splendid missing link for bikers -- but is taking years to nail down.

[Administration throws support behind CWRA](#) (Outdoor News). Conservation groups last week were quick to praise the Obama administration's support for the proposed Clean Water Restoration Act, a federal bill that is said to restore waters protections awarded by the 1972 Clean Water Act, but recently weakened by Supreme Court decisions.

[Rain barrels: saving money and the environment](#) (Owatonna Free Press). Rain barrels help save the environment and save money, said city Stormwater Manager Matt Durand.

[Counterpoint: Keeping forest forest is worth the millions](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Without intervention, that Upper Mississippi timberland is going private.

[More trash may be headed into the fire](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). The Hennepin Energy Recovery Center is planning to burn more garbage in order to produce steam for downtown heating demands.

[Residents save some green by gardening](#) (Faribault Daily News). James and Nikki Lemke of Faribault decided this year couldn't be a better one for having their first-ever family garden.

[Minnesota buys 6,900 more acres for public recreation, thanks to outdoors fund](#) (St. Paul Pioneer Press). Minnesotans will see an additional 6,200 acres of new public lands for hunting, hiking, wildlife watching and other activities under the Clean Water, Land and Legacy bill recently signed by Gov. Tim Pawlenty.

[Top 5 environmental volunteer opportunities for June in the Twin Cities](#) (Twin Cities Water Examiner). Summer volunteer programs are popular with Minnesotans. Last year, almost 35,000 people volunteered for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), alone, with state parks and enforcement projects as the [most popular](#).

*Many different paths can be taken during the next century of sustaining and restoring living rivers, but the central point is that we must make wise decisions now and act on them without delay. The health of river and therefore the well-being of life on earth demands a new commitment of heart and soul that leads to positive reform at the individual, community and national levels. – Tim Palmer, [The Case for River Conservation](#)*

**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.edu](mailto:scott.kudelka@mnsu.edu)  
<http://watershedalliance.blogspot.com>