

Chippewa River Watershed Project Annual Meeting

Just a quick reminder that the Chippewa River Watershed Project's Annual Meeting is this Thursday, March 19th at the Starbuck Community Center with registration and social time getting underway at 5:00 pm, a meal featuring locally produced beef at 6 pm and then program at 7 pm. There's been a great response so far, but there is still plenty of room for more. Call or email to get your name on the reservation list. This event is free and open to all. Bring your spouse, bring your family members, bring your neighbors! Spread the word and help make this the biggest Annual Meeting yet. Hope to see you there! Jennifer Hoffman; 320-269-2139 ext 120 or jennifer.hoffman@rcdnet.net

BROOKINGS 345 kV POWER LINE MEETINGS START MARCH 30

THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO SPEAK UP!

The CapX2020 utilities have already made their application for a 345 kV power line from Brookings County, South Dakota to Hampton, Minnesota. PUBLIC MEETINGS have been scheduled starting March 30, in various communities near the route of the Brookings power line. The dates and places of meetings are provided below.

What will happen at these Public Meetings?

- At every scheduled meeting, there will be about an hour of open house. If you come for this part of the meeting you can look at the routes in detail.
- Then, the State agency staff will give a presentation. You should know that the State agencies have been supporting all of the CapX2020 projects, including the Brookings line.
- Finally, you will have a chance to speak up. Please make a statement reflecting your concerns. If at all possible, put your thoughts in writing, and make sure that the agency staff gets a copy. Don't let the long process dissuade you from speaking your mind (you can always come just in time to comment).

What will be decided as a result of these Public Meetings?

These public meetings decide what the State agency permitting staff will look at in the environmental impact statement (EIS) before they give a route permit. This is called the "scope" of the EIS.

- If an alternative route is suggested in these public meetings, it is much more likely to be considered. The ALJ has suggested that the line might stop at Lake Marion instead of going to Hampton. The utilities will not like this recommendation, and public comment may influence whether this alternative is even considered.
- Similarly, if public comments are made about noise, loss in property values, aesthetic impacts, conflicts with local land use, magnetic fields, health risks from electromagnetic fields, impacts to wetlands or forests, it is much more likely that the State EIS will consider these issues in routing the power lines away from homes and sensitive areas. If these issues matter to you, come and voice your concerns.
- If you are completely opposed to the project or believe that certain segments should be built underground, you have the right to say your opinion even if the State agency staff doesn't agree with you. These meetings are intended to include your views.

In addition to speaking up at the meetings, you can also send written comments regarding the scope of the EIS and your concerns about the Brookings power line on the State permitting website at www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us.

If you would like to participate in these public meeting, but have questions about the process, please feel free to call CETF attorney Paula Maccabee at 651-646-8890. Information about the CapX2020 power lines is at <http://cetf.us/>

Dates of the upcoming routing meetings for the Brookings Line.

- **Monday, March 30th** from 1-4 p.m. & 5-8 p.m.
Best Western Marshall Inn (1500 E. College Dr.), Marshall, MN
- **Tuesday, March 31st** from 5-8 p.m.
Midwest Center for Wind Energy (2390 County Hwy. 1), Hendricks, MN
- **Wednesday, April 1st** from 12-3 p.m.
Prairie's Edge Casino & Resort (5616 Prairie's Edge Lane), Granite Falls, MN
- **Wednesday April 1** from 5-8 p.m.
Redwood Area Community Center (901 Cook St.), Redwood Falls, MN
- **Thursday April 2** from 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Sibley East Junior High Middle Gym (500 Court Ave.), Gaylord, MN
- **Monday, April 6th** from 5-8 p.m.
Hog Wild Saloon & Eatery (514 Main St), Henderson, MN
- **Tuesday, April 7th** from 5-8 p.m.
New Prague High School Commons (221 - 12th St. N.E.), New Prague, MN
- **Wednesday, April 8th** from 9-12 p.m. & 1-4 p.m. & 5 – 8 p.m.
Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites (20800 Kenrick Ave), Lakeville, MN
- **Thursday, April 9th** from 5 – 8 p.m.
Grandpa's Event Center (31846 - 65th Ave), Cannon Falls, MN

Minnesota 2009 Lakes and Rivers Conference

Rochester is the place to be this May! Minnesota Waters is once again hosting the statewide Lakes and Rivers Conference, featuring the training, the experts, and the solutions you need to kick off a summer of successful lake and river efforts. The conference takes place May 7 – 8 at the Mayo Civic Center in Rochester.

- Learn how to make your volunteer group more effective
- Hear about advances in managing invasive species
- Find out what climate change could mean to your lake or river
- Hear the latest on the state funding process
- Discover new products and services for surface water management.

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

Healthy Rivers: A Water Course Program

The Stream Habitat Program of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is excited to announce that the Healthy Rivers: A Water Course program is now available online at www.dnr.state.mn.us/healthyivers with supporting materials to come!!! This user-friendly program organizes information around a logical, five-component framework (flow, shape, connectivity, water quality, & biology) for understanding complicated principles of river and stream ecology. It explores the value of river system goods and services, examines the history of river use, and provides a basis for a future vision of water resource management. It is loaded with photos, maps, animations, and audio and video clips and is intended for educators; adult citizens working with conservation and watershed organizations on river management issues; land management agencies, local governments, environmental consultants, and policy makers working towards sustainable management of our river and stream resources.

*The Stream Habitat Program has also posted the first of a series of brochures/resource sheets that addresses stream health, channel stability, resulting bank erosion, and streambank restoration techniques on our website: www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/streamhab (also an attachment). Resource sheets addressing: the role of vegetation and vegetative stabilization techniques (biologs, brush mattresses, revetments, etc.), more complex streambank stabilization techniques (ex. rock vanes and root wad revetments), the impacts of dams and culverts, dam removal & modification into rock rapids, etc. will be posted as they develop.

You might find the Watershed Assessment Tool valuable in addressing and researching watershed health www.dnr.state.mn.us/watershed_tool. This interactive mapping tool has 40+ data layers, supporting text, and will soon have health scores for all MN watersheds based on our five component framework. We invite you to check it out!

*The MN Department of Resources' Stream Habitat Program has opened registration for the 2009 Stream Health and Restoration Workshops. This summer we are offering a NEW workshop:

- Natural Channel Design in Dam Removal and Fish Passage - June 8-12, Fergus Falls, MN
- In addition to:
 - Fluvial Geomorphology and Stream Classification - July 13-17, Redwood Falls, MN
 - Stream Restoration - August 17-21, Fergus Falls, MN

Details about our workshops and the registration form are in the attached flyer, which can also be found at www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/streamhab. Please note the prerequisites for these courses.

For more information:

- Workshops: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/streamworkshopsflyer.pdf>
- Understanding Streams and Rivers: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/understandingstreamsandriversonline.pdf>

Mapping Minnesota Communities Workshop: An Introduction to GIS and Community Analysis

This workshop is for beginners, anyone interested in mapping their community. Participants will learn to use ArcGIS 9.3 to do the following:

- Create Thematic Maps - Participants will learn to create thematic maps of their own data, and display spatial trends in information.
- Address Mapping (Geocoding) - Participants will learn to map addresses of their clients, their projects or incidents such as crime and disease.
- Download and Map Census & American Community Survey Data Participants will learn to extract and map current Census data such as poverty, race, language, population, transportation, education and workforce characteristics.
- Participants will also learn to:
 - Conduct spatial queries
 - Download free shapefiles
 - Create well-designed maps
 - Mapping techniques transferable to all other communities. Exercises are designed for beginners. Intermediate Excel skills required.

Minneapolis/Edina : April 7th and 8th, 2009* New Horizons Computer Learning Center - 4510 West 77th Street, Suite 210 Edina, MN, 55435

- Note: These are one-day workshops (8:30am - 4:30pm). Participants choose which day to attend.

More Info/Registration: <http://www.nur-online.com/> <<http://d.ss31.nur-online.com/sendlink.asp?HitID=1237223938252&StID=15089&SID=0&NID=137993&EmID=54299048&Link=aHR0cDovL3d3dy5udXltb25saW5lLnVvbS8%3D>>

Materials

- + Comprehensive workbook (75 pages), which includes the presentation,
- + exercises and reference worksheets
- + ArcGIS (ArcView 9.3) software 60-day trial CD set
- + Thirty day free access to new 2005 Tiger/Line geography files
- + (converted to shapefiles) which include streets, zip codes, school
- + districts, voting districts, census tracts and many other useful
- + geographies
- + Thirty day free access to our Analyzing Your Community: Local
- + Demographic Analysis Online Workshop

Job / Intern Opportunities:

Office Manager

The Clearwater SWCD is hiring an office manager to provide administrative and clerical services.

Duties include:

- Manage office communications and day-to-day operations such as receiving and routing phone calls, mail, receiving the public, filing, office equipment and maintenance, office calendar and ordering supplies.
- Attend Board meetings, record and transcribe minutes, compile and distribute Board Packets.
- Process various documents such as financial reports, summaries, presentations, contracts, correspondence, policies and procedures, personnel records or other confidential materials.

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

Events:

March 19th (Thursday) is the **Chippewa River Watershed Project Annual Meeting** at the Starbuck Community Center. The evening begins with registration and social gathering at 5 p.m., meal at 6 p.m. and program at 7 p.m. Meals are free with registration. Presentation will be given on the latest monitoring results and the upcoming Turbidity TMDL. To register call Jennifer Hoffman at 320-269-2139 ext 120. For more information,

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

March 19th (Thursday) is the second of three **Conservation Drainage Sessions** starting at 6:00 p.m. at the Kilowatt Community Center in Granite Falls. For more information,

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

March 24th (Tuesday) is a presentation on **Energy Savings Landscapes** from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in Montevideo. Learn how trees and shrubs can be used to help you save energy year round. Strategically placed trees and shrubs in shelterbelts, windbreaks and in the home lawn, can enhance property value, aesthetics, wildlife habitat, and can reduce energy costs by 25 to 30%. Registration for each workshop is \$ 20. Pre-registration is requested. The public is invited to attend. To register for any of these workshops visit: <http://cfc.cfans.umn.edu/wa/> or contact Kathy Eckwright, 507-389-6972 or 888-241-3214, eckwr001@umn.edu.

March 29th (Sunday) is the **Chaska to York Factory in 49 Days presentation** at 7:00 p.m. at the Treaty Site History Center (1851 North Minnesota Avenue) just north of St. Peter on U.S. Hwy 169. Sean Bloomfield and Colton Witte will talk about their adventure last summer paddling the entire Minnesota and Red rivers all the way to the Hudson Bay. For more information call 507-934-2160 or museum@nchsmn.org

March 30th (Monday) is the **Shallow Lakes Forum VI – Development and Implementation of Shallow Lake Management Plan** at the Oak Ridge Conference Center in Chaska. For more information, <http://www.shallowlakes.info/>

April 7th (Tuesday) is the last of three **Conservation Drainage Sessions** starting at 6:00 p.m. at the Best Western Hotel in Mankato. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/conservationdrainageflyer.pdf>

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

Water Quality Articles

[Editorial: On conservation, spreading the dough won't do it](#) ((Pioneer Press). There were four main parts to the sales-tax-raising constitutional amendment Minnesota voters approved last fall: clean water; conservation and habitat; parks and trails; arts and culture. The tax will raise billions over the next 25 years.

[Schools embracing energy efficiency](#) (Mankato Free Press). From more energy efficient school buildings to more efficient dust mops, no project is too big or too small.

[Carbon cap, trades could become reality for U.S.](#) (MN Daily). In his budget blueprint presented at the end of February, President Barack Obama asked to establish a nationwide market-based carbon cap and trade system intended to reduce emissions, while generating more than \$600 billion over 10 years, but it's still contentious issue that faces a number of hurdles before it can become reality.

[New plates could put a walleye, chickadee or whitetail on your bumper](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). Minnesota is updating its wildlife license plates with four new designs, and state officials are asking the public to weigh in on what they'll look like.

[Formaldehyde present in many kids' bath products, tests find](#) (MinnPost). Formaldehyde, popularly associated with embalming and taxidermy and used in a variety of building products, is showing up in children's bath products to an alarming degree.

[Seeking comfort in cuisine](#) (Star Tribune). Comfort food, the hot trend in these stressful times, became positively iconic in January when a bowl of spaghetti and meatballs was on the cover of Gourmet magazine.

[House Ag panel opposes Obama on farm bill](#) (Bemidji Pioneer). A budget letter approved Thursday by the U.S. House Agriculture Committee asks Congress not to reopen the 2008 Farm Bill.

[Lessard Council narrows its list](#) (Outdoor News). The Lessard Outdoor Heritage Council gave preliminary approval Monday to 19 projects totaling more than \$68 million.

[Dennis Anderson: Pursuit of 'balance' on Lessard council is anything but](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Rhetoric from two legislators has drawn a rigid battle line showing that metro interests matter most in using Lessard council funding.

[Janesville, Minn. hit hard in the ethanol bust](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). In the southern Minnesota town of Janesville, a brand new ethanol plant sits idle and unused, a sign of how bad things are in the industry.

[DNR pursues pork project in western Minnesota](#) (Outdoor News). State officials this week continued their quest to locate an estimated 25 to 50 hogs roaming the wilds of western Minnesota - pot-bellied pigs that likely originated from the escape or release of pets.

[A cry that business is wasting away](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). A group of organics recyclers argues that Hennepin County subsidies for composting of waste food are undercutting their businesses.

[Editorial: It's rural vs. metro in outdoors debate](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). It's a wonderful tradition in high school sports. The state hockey tournament in St. Paul often features great outstate teams competing against the best of the metro.

[Ellen Anderson: In need of protection: habitat close to home](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Meaning, for many Minnesotans, the metro area-- where growth is inevitable but a connection with the outdoors is not.

[Park Service to ban lead tackle](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). The National Park Service intends to ban lead fishing tackle in all its parks, including Minnesota's Voyageurs National Park, by the end of 2010.

[Obama's green plan: lessons from Minnesota](#) (MinnPost). Minnesota's experience in that regard gives a preview of the bumps in President Obama's road as his administration moves to take measure of the nation's greenhouse gas emissions and set up a system for curbing them.

[Tony Dean's conservation dream](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Imagine a plot of land 1,000 acres large in South Dakota, teeming with pheasants, home to deer and frequented in autumn by hunters.

[Rain gardens growing popular](#) (Fairmont Sentinel). Imagine having a beautiful flower garden, filled with hostas, wild geraniums, ostrich ferns and any perennial flower or grass suitable for Minnesota.

[Nicholas Kristof: Antibiotics in pig feed imperil people](#) (Pioneer Press). We don't add antibiotics to baby food and Cocoa Puffs so children get fewer ear infections. That's because we understand that the overuse of antibiotics is already creating "superbugs" resistant to medication.

[\\$68 million pointed at wetlands, forests and prairie](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Heritage Council names 19 conservation projects to be funded by a state sales tax increase, but two legislators worry that too few metro-area projects were included.

[Poet, Magellan to study ethanol pipeline](#) (Associated Press). Biofuels company Poet LLC and [Magellan Midstream Partners LP](#) on Monday announced a joint venture to study whether they can build a dedicated ethanol pipeline with an estimated cost of more than \$3.5 billion.

[Coen brothers join debate: Can coal be clean energy?](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). The St. Louis Park natives took a break from movie making recently to make commercials disputing the idea.

May the blessings of the river be yours! May you flow around and over the rocks in your path, polishing them and shaping them in minute ways. May you be the mirror to reflect the beauty along your journey. – Lucy Edelbeck

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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