

CURE Looks Forward to Collaboration in Wake of Big Stone II Decision

The group of utility partners planning to build the Big Stone II coal fired plant just across the Minnesota border announced on Monday, November 2, 2009 that they are scrapping the project.

After nearly five years of publicly voicing opposition to the project, the Clean Up the River Environment (CURE) board of directors is setting its sights on collaboration with the rural electric co-ops and municipalities that are now turning to alternative power sources to supply energy that would have come from Big Stone II.

"We have said for the past 4 years that the cheapest new form of reliable electricity generation is wind backed by natural gas," stated CURE Renewable Energy Consultant Duane Ninneman. "Now it looks as if several of the former Big Stone II partners will be going in that direction."

CURE is in dialogue with regional rural electric cooperatives and municipal power companies about ways clean energy advocates and utilities can work together to bring solar energy, wind and ramped up energy efficiency projects to the communities of the Upper Minnesota River Watershed.

"We will soon view our shift to smart-clean energy in the same way we have come to embrace and expect internet and cell service", stated Ninneman. "At the foundation of this system is energy efficiency and conservation delivered in a partnership between electric utilities and their customers."

To highlight this opportunity, CURE is partnering with leading business owners, the City of Montevideo EDA, The Montevideo School district and the Chippewa County Habitat for Humanity to construct and teach about how to build an energy efficient low income home.

"There is a tremendous opportunity to create sustainable jobs that will help our region emerge as a leader in the clean energy economy," stated CURE's Executive Director Patrick Moore "In this new clean energy economy, every home, every business and every institution has an opportunity to become a renewable energy generation facility," Moore continued. "There is much that can be done with the resources we have here in our own back yard. The future is ours to create!"

Big Stone 2 coal fired power plant expansion plant is dead – Scott Sparlin

Central Minnesota Municipal Power Agency announced today that the Big Stone 2 coal fired power plant expansion project is dead. That will now save over six billion gallons of non-recyclable water the plant would have used annually from the river and its headwaters aquifer. Our many thanks for American Rivers, Clean up the River Environment, The Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River, Friends of the Minnesota Valley, The Minnesota River Board and the entire partnership who opposed taking huge quantities water from the Minnesota River for this ill advised project. The present need still exists to convene a border waters commission to deal with these multi-state water use issues once and for all. So c'mon Governor, people in! Minnesota showed that we care deeply about our surface and ground water in the last election. Now is the time to show your leadership qualities. Offer to start the process, pick up the phone and call the other state leaders, the unpleasant controversy part is over now, there are no more excuses not to do it. It is truly a good day for the river, let's hope locally generated renewable energy resources get more of the spotlight now, it's time.

More stories on Big Stone II Coal Plant

[With demise of Big Stone II, the days of King Coal are over for now](#) (MinnPost). Monday's announcement that the giant Big Stone II plant won't be built as planned near Minnesota's

western border makes it unlikely that another coal-fired power plant will be built in the Upper Midwest anytime soon, if ever.

[Impact of Big Stone II's demise uncertain](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). The end of the Big Stone II power plant has electricity companies and environmental groups looking to the future.

[Utilities kill plans for Big Stone II power plant](#) (St. Paul Pioneer Press). Developers of the controversial Big Stone II power plant in Milbank, S.D., said Monday they will not build the \$1.6 billion coal-fired project, ending a four-year battle between utilities and environmentalists over a significant portion of Minnesota's energy future.

[Plan for coal-fired plant in South Dakota shelved after 4 utilities drop out](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). The Big Stone II project has been at the center of an environmental debate since it was announced in 2004.

[Will Big Stone also be replaced by renewable power?](#) (MinnPost). The cancellation of the proposed Big Stone II coal-fired power plant brings back memories of the cancellations of the proposed power plants at Durand, Wis.

[Opinion: Coal out of favor](#) (New Ulm Journal). Plans to build the Big Stone II coal-fired power plant near Milbank, S.D. officially ended on Monday after one of the principal utilities backing the \$1.6 billion plant pulled out of the project.

Minnesota River Waterway Trail Plan Receives Award

The Green Corridor Minnesota River Waterway Trail Plan that was awarded to the Green Corridor Inc and their Trail Committee earlier this fall by the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (NPS-RTCA) program has been recognized by the Mid-America Trails and Greenways Conference in Kalamazoo MI with their *2009 Mid American Trails and Greenways Award*.

The actual award presentation was received on behalf of the Green Corridor Board by Mr. Randy Thoreson – NPS at the Conference. A formal presentation of the award to the Green Corridor Board and official press release will take place in the near future – we are sending you this notice in advance of the NPS press release.

Below are some of the key elements of the Green Corridor Minnesota River Waterway Trail Plan through the NPS-RTCA; The goal of the MN River Trail is to further develop the state's designated "waterways" trail of the Minnesota River – Segment Two (2) – of approximately 45 miles as described in project location. This project will help to further identify new resource infrastructures and improvements to existing resource infrastructures along the trail which will provide public access, safety improvements, camping, and water/restroom facilities. The key aspect to this project is to bring together a wide range of partners and communities to help develop a vision utilizing the same natural resources and water trail infrastructure for the hiking/ biking trail, the horse trail, the snowmobile trail and the Minnesota River Valley Scenic By-Way, as all five of these trail systems are being developed within this corridor.

It is our hope that this planning process will give us the appropriate infrastructure mapping and strategy for this river corridor to become a recreation destination for multiple interest groups and be the foundation of a new recreation industry and a catalyst for the creation of tourism and recreation related businesses related to this natural resource.

One primary objective of the project is to help identify the natural resource, recreational, and safety benefits for the removal of the dam currently owned by a utility company south of Granite Falls MN which has been decommissioned from electric power production. By removal of the dam

and reconstruction of a sloping grade environment in the river it will remove the current fish barrier for fish migration up or down river and provide continue river travel and safety. Another important opportunity which will be addressed in the project is the overall evaluation of the resources needed to infrastructures to support the boating, canoeing, and kayaking recreational activities.

The project has broad ranging support from the multitude of support letters ranging from local communities, county government, and the MN River Watershed Alliance to name just a few of the primary partners. Each partner will actively support the project goals and outcomes by engaging citizens, businesses, communities, and other organizations and agencies of the benefits these recreational opportunities will have for the region.

- The project area has been designated by the MN Department of Natural Resources (DNR) as an official waterway in their state waterway plans and DNR will assist the NPS in the develop of this project request.
- The Green Corridor Legacy Program received grant funding in the last year from Environment and Natural Resource Trust Fund (ENRTF) and the MN Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF) totaling \$2.617 million dollars for critical habitat acquisition for public uses.
- As part of the ENRTF grant, the Green Corridor was also funded for the development of a long range conservation plan with three (3) primary focus areas; natural resources, historical/cultural sites, and recreation. This plan will be used by the Green Corridor and others to evaluate areas of importance based on these three principles and will be available to the NPS in October 2009 to assist in this project request. Several regional newspapers have reported on this project and copies of these articles will be forwarded with the written submission of this proposal.
- Another ENRTF grant for the region was also awarded for FY2008-2010 for the development of a comprehensive hike and bike trail plan for Renville and Redwood counties. This plan should be available in the spring of 2010.
- State and federal funding requests have been submitted to pave a large section of Renville county roads that are included in the MN River Valley Scenic By-way system. As part of this funding request, hike and bike trails will be developed parallel to the roadway improvements.

Notes from the October 20th Minnesota River Watershed Alliance meeting

Over the next few MN River Weekly Updates I will be covering a portion of what happened at the most recent Minnesota River Watershed Alliance (Watershed Alliance) meeting. The first topic is a Minnesota River Paddler Program initiated in 2009 by the Watershed Alliance as their main focus for the year. The goal behind this initiative is to connect people to the river by awarding three different patches/decals to those who get out to paddle the Minnesota River and its major tributaries.

Minnesota River Paddle Program: Chantill and Brooke showed the group the revised designs from the suggested changes for each of the three patch/decals: Tributary, 335 and Extreme.

Both decals and patches will be ordered to allow people to choose what they may want to display. Chantill will be ordering them in the near future. A question came up concerning the date on the one patch – whether it should be 10 for 2010 or another number like double zeros. The group decided to let the Paddler Program committee make the final decision.

To promote the paddler program, the committee suggested holding an event kickoff next spring – May or June – at the Rapidan Dam Park and paddle the Blue Earth River. The idea is to bring in the various canoe and kayak rental businesses to allow those people who don't have their own to

rent one. There will also be cool stuff including music, information booths and other stuff to draw people in. We are also looking to award some of the first patches/decals including the 335 to Tim Krohn and John Cross for paddling the entire Minnesota River twice. Patrick said hosting an event like this is a great idea and offered CURE's support to publicize the event. Once again, the group voted to let the committee decide on a date for the event and get back to everyone by the January meeting.

King Corn and Big River Double Feature

With discussion featuring filmmaker Curt Ellis and other experts on Wednesday, November 18th, 2009 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. for \$10.00 at the Riverview Theater (3800 42nd Avenue South) Minneapolis, MN 55406.

Following up on their Peabody winning documentary, the King Corn boys are back! Join filmmaker Curt Ellis, star of "King Corn", for the Minnesota premiere of "Big River." In their new documentary, Curt and Ian return to Iowa on a new mission: to investigate the environmental impact their acre of corn had on the people and places downstream - including the impacts that intensive agricultural practices have on our water resources.

Program:

7:00 p.m. King Corn

8:00 p.m. Big River

8:30 p.m. Discussion & Raffle Giveaway

All proceeds from this event benefit the Mississippi River Gorge Stewards Program, a volunteer program of Friends of the Mississippi River. Hosted by the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP), Friends of the Mississippi River, Land Stewardship Project, and Birchwood Café. The event will also include a raffle for great prizes from local stores and organizations, including books, DVDs, gift certificates and more! Tickets sold at the door. Advance sales at IATP and the Birchwood Café.

For information or for a student group-rate, contact Abby at abby@iatp.org or 612-870-3433.

LIFE ON THE RIVER

May of 2009 witnessed commercial fishermen dropping their seines into the Minnesota River near New Ulm for the first time in nearly half a century and Minnesota River Valley National Scenic Byway photographer Ron Bolduan was there. The results were both unexpected and pleasantly surprising.

The Regional River History and Information Center of New Ulm invites you to view these images and other favorite memories and moments from Ron's years of wandering the river valley. This free to the public presentation focuses on the natural beauty, wildlife, recreation and other human activity taking place upon the river.

Where: New Ulm Public Library Basement

When: 7 PM Thursday November 19, 2009

Lac qui Parle and Yellow Bank TMDL Public Informational Meeting

The Lac qui Parle and Yellow Bank rivers have been listed on the EPA 303(d) list as impaired because several reaches and tributaries exceed the water quality standards for fecal coliform and turbidity. One reach also is listed for low dissolved oxygen. A Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) assessment is being conducted in the impaired reaches of the rivers. **Public informational meetings will be held on Tuesday, November 24 at the Canby Community Center, 110 Oscar Ave**

in Canby from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. and at the Madison VFW, 711 2nd Street in Madison from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. to review the TMDL process and preliminary findings in the watershed. You will learn and be able to comment on the Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank assessment. These meetings will provide valuable background information for future meetings concerning land use in the watershed. For more information contact Mary Homan, Project Coordinator at 320-598-3319 or email mary.homan@lqpc.com.

Water Quality Special Awards

The Minnesota River Board is offering special awards for projects relating to water quality and we could use 2-3 judges at the junior/senior fair on Feb. 6 and up to six judges at the elementary fair on May 1. If people are interested in volunteering in general, there is a registration form available at https://msufair.norsoft.net/Judge_Registration.aspx. If you are interested in volunteering as a special awards judge for the Minnesota River Board please contact Susie Carlin, at 507-389-6279 or susan.carlin@mnsu.edu for more details.

Prairie Biomass Harvest Field Day Near Dundee

A field day will be held November 19, 2009, near Dundee, Minnesota, to discuss the impacts and benefits of harvesting prairie plants for renewable fuels. The Prairie Biomass Harvest Field Day will be held from 1:00pm to 3:00pm at a local research plot being utilized by Dr. Clarence Lehman, University of Minnesota, and partners.

The field day, located within Talcot Lake Wildlife Management Area, will be an interactive event in which participants will discuss the research being done and the multiple benefits of using prairie plants for renewable fuels. The research project's harvest equipment will be available for viewing thanks to Minnesota Native Landscapes. This is an outdoor event. Please dress accordingly.

Partners for this event include: University of Minnesota, Rural Advantage, South Dakota State University, EcoSun Prairie Farms, Minnesota Native Landscapes, University of Minnesota Extension, The Nature Conservancy, Pheasants Forever, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture through a Conservation Innovation Grant.

Directions: From Windom, go about 15 miles west on State Hwy 62, then north on Cottonwood Co Rd 7. Travel West on Co Rd 15 for about ½ mile. Plot will be on south side of road. From Fulda, go about 8 miles east on State Hwy 62, then north on Co Rd 7. Travel west on Co Rd 15 for about ½ mile. Plot will be on south side of road.

Field days will be rain or shine. However, difficult traveling due to snow or ice will be call for cancelation. For weather related cancellations, please contact: 763-234-3846

Register for Growing the Bioeconomy: Solutions for Sustainability

December 1 and 2, be part of a bioeconomy conference on the University of Minnesota campus. Agricultural producers, landowners, community and business leaders, citizens and students interested in economic development and biorenewables are encouraged to attend and identify ways they can participate in agriculturally-based and forest-based solutions to the global climate change and energy supply issues facing Minnesota.
Growing the Bioeconomy: Solutions for Sustainability.

University of Minnesota Continuing Education and Conference Center

On December 1, you'll be part of a virtual conference hosted by 12 Midwest universities. You'll get a big picture overview of the issues through broadcast viewing and a live panel discussion. Speakers include:

- U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack
- U.S. Secretary of Energy Dr. Steven Chu
- Renowned biochar and climate change expert Dr. James E. Lovelock

December 2 is all about Minnesota. We'll focus on local success stories, getting your questions answered, and giving you information you can put to use right away. Topics include:

- Biorenewable feedstocks
- Conversion technologies
- Anaerobic digestion
- Biomass utilization

Cost is \$50 per day, \$85 for both days.

Details and registration at <http://www.extension.umn.edu/biorenewables>

This conference is hosted by University of Minnesota Extension and the University of Minnesota Initiative for Renewable Energy and the Environment.

Job Announcements:

BMP CHALLENGE Minnesota Project Coordinator

Agflex specializes in innovative programs that support farmer adoption of Best Management Practices (BMPs). These practices save farmers money over time and improve environmental stewardship. Inexperience, weather-related risks and other complications can discourage farmers from implementing BMPs. Agflex and its partners have developed the BMP CHALLENGE, an innovative program that provides a net income guarantee for participating grain and silage corn producers as they experiment with nutrient management and conservation tillage. The program allows farmers to evaluate how BMPs perform on their own farm without economic risk.

Agflex is seeking a part-time coordinator to work in Minnesota to support on an ongoing collaboration funded by the US Department of Agriculture with partners including American Farmland Trust, the Minnesota River Board and other public and private organizations. Project outcomes include expansion of the BMP CHALLENGE program in Minnesota, fulfillment of deliverables to Minnesota River Board, and development of a new BMP CHALLENGE for processing sweet corn.

Responsibilities include recruiting producers, crop advisors and conservation professionals who can benefit to participate in the BMP CHALLENGE. The successful candidate will also coordinate field trials in sweet corn, and support implementation including check strip set up and yield assessments where needed.

Familiarity with nutrient management and conservation tillage in corn required. Excellent people and organization skills required, including written and verbal communications. Candidate must be able to work independently to achieve goals and have good familiarity with the region. Existing relationships including with agricultural and conservation professionals is a plus.

Position will be based in Southern Minnesota with a flexible schedule, 15-20 hours per week, continuing through at least September 2011. Compensation commensurate will be based on skills and experience. This is an ideal position for an individual interested in working with conservation professionals and farmers to develop solutions that protect water quality and farm profitability.

Send resume to Tom Green, President, Agflex, Inc., 4510 Regent St., Madison WI 53705. Phone (608) 232-1425, Fax (608) 232-1440, E-mail: tom.green@bmpchallenge.org.

NACD CEO position

This week NACD posted the vacancy announcement for the CEO position on our website (click here to open - http://www.nacdnet.org/news/CEO_job_summary.pdf). The application process is

open until November 30 and resumes should be submitted to NACD at jobs@nacdnet.org. If you have any questions about the application process, please feel free to contact me or President Steve Robinson (steve-robinson@nacdnet.org) any time.

Southwest and West Central CERT Regional Coordinator(s)

The Southwest and West Central Clean Energy Resource Teams seeks a temporary appointment of a Coordinator that will be instrumental in working with various organizations and individuals to move community-scale projects forward within the region by connecting people with the technical resources they need to identify and implement local energy efficiency and clean energy projects.

Position will be paid by contract with CERTs \$16.00 - \$20.00 an hour for either a 40-hour/week apt or two 20 hours/ week appointments from December 2009 – June 2010 (no benefits) and with the potential for renewal through June 2011. Southwest and West Central CERT Coordinator(s) will be supervised by and report to the CERT Coordinator for the UM Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships. Position may office out of a home office or may be provided space with one or more of the Project Partners.

BA or BS, technical background in energy research and data analysis desired but not required. Travel is required to perform the responsibilities of this position, personal vehicle is required, reimbursement of travel will be made according to State policies.

Position general responsibilities, qualifications and additional information can be accessed at <http://tinyurl.com/SW-WC-CERT-Organizer>. Send resume to Annette Bair, Southwest Regional Development Commission and Southwest CERT coordinator by 11/20/09 4:30 pm at either phydev@swrdc.org or 2401 Broadway Ave, Slayton, MN 56172. This position is to be filled by January 2010.

Grant Opportunities:

Conservation Partnership Grants – Minnesota Waters

Minnesota Waters is pleased to offer its members Conservation Partnership grants for the third year in a row. This grant program is funded with support from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and Michelob Golden Draft Light. Conservation Partnership grants offer funding to support projects initiated and managed by our state's most effective local water resource managers-citizen groups working to protect Minnesota's lakes and streams.

Conservation Partnership grants provide funding for citizen-led lake and river improvement projects across the state, including, but not limited to:

- Shoreland habitat improvement projects
- shoreland restoration projects
- inventorying and assessment projects
- AIS prevention projects
- Outreach and education projects benefitting lake and stream health

The 2009-10 grant application cycle is now OPEN. Please note, due to funding delays, we have a shorter deadline this year: Applications must be postmarked no later than December 11, 2009. Please download Conservation Partnership grant criteria and application at: www.minnesotawaters.org.

Conservation Partnership grants are available to all Minnesota Waters members and affiliates. Seven \$5,000.00 grants will be awarded. Funded projects will be short-term (12 months) in duration to demonstrate quick, tangible results for implementation during 2010. Please contact Erica LeMoine at erical@minnesotawaters.org with any questions.

U.S. EPA's EE Grants Program

The Fiscal Year 2010 Solicitation Notice for EPA's EE Grants Program is now available online at <http://www.epa.gov/enviroed/grants.html>. Please visit the site to review details about how to apply for an EE grant and to download the 2010 Solicitation Notice, Application, and Budget Form. Applications must be submitted in hard copy (paper) to EPA and must be postmarked by December 15, 2009 to be eligible for consideration.

Along with the required Federal application forms, EPA is pleased to offer applicants a blank logic model template to use for identifying outputs and outcomes of the activities described in their proposals. Download the template, along with the application and budget form, from the EE Web site at http://www.epa.gov/enviroed/grants_apply.html. You can enter your information onto the Web site forms and print them out for submission to EPA.

Thank you for your interest in EPA's EE grants program and for your commitment to education.

President's Environmental Youth Awards for Outstanding Projects

EPA's Environmental Education Division also sponsors the President's Environmental Youth Award (PEYA) program, an annual program that recognizes young people across America for projects which demonstrate their commitment to the environment. Young people in all 50 states and the U.S. territories are invited to participate in the program. The deadline for submitting a PEYA application is December 31, 2009. Please visit the PEYA Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/peya/> for additional details and application forms.

Clean Water Funds – BWSR

The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) has developed a sweeping new process for streamlining all individual BWSR competitive grant applications into one “new” BWSR Competitive Grant Application. This competitive application will reduce the time required to complete multiple applications throughout the year and increase administrative efficiency by reducing the number of executed grant agreements.

The 2010 Competitive Grant Application will include the:

- Interagency Clean Water Fund Application;
- Conservation Drainage Management Application;
- Cooperative Weed Management Area Application; and
- Native Buffer Cost Share Application.

Eligible applicants can apply for one or more of the programs. Successful applicants will receive one grant agreement that will include all awarded funds. The application period opened October 15th and ends December 1, 2009.

Important notes about the Competitive Grant Application:

- The Clean Water Fund Implementation funds must emphasize outcomes through implementation of projects and initiatives.
- Water quality monitoring is not an eligible activity for these funds.
- Clean Water Funds are directed at water quality benefits.
- Leveraged funds claimed in successful applications that have been used as part of the evaluation process must be identified in the project work plan and reported as part of project expenditures.
- All data collected as part of funded grant projects is public data.
- Eligible projects must be electronically submitted by the application deadline.

The competitive Grant application includes Clean Water Funds generated through the Clean Water Land and Legacy Amendment. A total of \$12.8 million in Clean Water Funds is available in a number of program categories to counties, cities, soil and water conservation districts, water management organizations and certain joint powers boards.

For more information go to <http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us> or contact the following BWSR representatives:

- South: Matt Drewitz at 507-766-5020
- Metro: Marcey Westrick at 651-284-4153
- North: Jeff Hrubes at 218-368-7683

Events:

November 16, 2009 (Monday) is the next **Minnesota River Board meeting** starting at 9 o'clock with the Full Board meeting at the Sibley County Service Center (111 8th Street) in Gaylord. The Executive Committee will meet at 8:00 a.m. The packet of material for this meeting can be found on our website at the following the link: http://mrbd.mnsu.edu/org/mrbd/meetings_full.html

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

Water Quality Articles:

[Bushmills Ethanol Inc. of Atwater fined \\$425,000 for state violations](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). The plant was accused of several environmental breaches, including sending wastewater into storm sewers.

[Protected aquifer feared at risk](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Pooling underneath the Twin Cities area is drinking water so old and pristine that it's protected by state law.

[Opinion: Ag and climate change](#) (Mankato Free Press). An opinion piece by James Dontje, director of the Johnson Center for Environmental Innovation at Gustavus Adolphus College about climate change and agriculture.

[A look at states where farmland is being released from federal conservation program](#) (Chicago Tribune). A breakdown of acres enrolled in CRP and what comes out in the next few years.

[Factory tour sheds some light on energy](#) (Mankato Free Press). John Sacco wasn't thinking about fighting global warming two years ago when he spent \$14,000 to install more efficient lighting at his Mankato factory.

[Geothermal grants heat up in Minnesota](#) (MinnPost). Geothermal energy development in Minnesota and around the country has received a multimillion-dollar boost from the Department of Energy for projects ranging from an ice sheet in Eagan to carbon sequestration and heat capture at the University of Minnesota.

[Saving the ash tree, seed by seed](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Most of Minnesota's ash trees seem doomed, but the rush is on to preserve their seeds in hopes of saving the species.

[DNR awards conservation grants in area](#) (Shakopee Valley News). The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has awarded grants to communities around the metro region to help them conserve and manage natural resources in the midst of urban pressures.

[Drug drop-off recycles, eliminates abuse](#) (Mankato Free Press). B.J. Tesch is bounding through the aisles of Snyders Drug Store in Mankato like Christmas has come early — this Thursday afternoon it was truly better to give than to receive.

[Minneapolis tapping Mississippi River for power, again](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). Hydropower helped turn Minneapolis into a 19th century industrial giant, and the city is turning to the river again for power.

[Organic Valley dairy co-op will tap new markets](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Minnesota organic dairy reaches deal to extend its reach.

Here the wind blows hard enough to make money.

Population declines, but not fast enough.

I wait for big grass to grow again, and wolves, and buffalo – Bill Holm, September 2008

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