



Minnesota River Weekly Update

June 25th - June 30th, 2013

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Citizens Board Meeting, June 25th, 2013

On the meeting agenda is discussion about monitoring data of lakes and streams in Minnesota's 81 major watersheds; establishing strategies to protect and restore waters; consideration of approving statewide general permit regulating Construction Stormwater; and consideration of denying a request to postpone statewide general permit that regulates Municipal Stormwater, meaning the permit will go into effect August 1st, 2013.

For more information visit <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/about-mpca/mpca-overview/mpca-citizens-board/index.html#next-meeting>

MPCA to announce how nitrates are affecting Minnesota waters, June 26th, 2013

The MPCA will be discussing findings on its study of nitrogen in surface waters. Issues such as the nitrogen hot zones, sources, and possible response action to improve aquatic life as well as impacts to the Gulf of Mexico.

For more information contact Core Rude-Young at (651)757-2680

Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program

The program is the product of a state-federal partnership that includes the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Currently the program consists of four pilot locations, including Elm Creek watershed in south central Minnesota.

For more information visit

<http://www.mda.state.mn.us/protecting/waterprotection/awqcprogram.aspx>

Le Sueur River Watershed Civic Engagement

Within the Le Sueur River watershed citizens, farmers, educators, and agency staff are gathering together to discuss ideas for improving water quality in the watershed. The group has identified stormwater management and in-ditch storage, temporary water storage, buffers-terraces-grass waterways, communication-education, less red tape, channel maintenance, and bank-ravine stabilization as their primary concerns to address.

For more information visit

http://mrbdc.mnsu.edu/sites/mrbdc.mnsu.edu/files/public/org/lesueur/nav_index.html

Chippewa River Watershed Project Board of Directors Monthly Meeting

Friday, July 19th, 2013 the Chippewa River Watershed Project Board of Directors will be meeting at 9:00 A.M. at Benson City, Council Chambers to discuss ways in which they can improve water quality and flooding problems within the Chippewa River watershed while promoting healthy agricultural, industrial, and recreation-based economy for the region.

For more information visit <http://www.chippewariver.com/>

Articles

[Multiple ways to drain, conserve](#)

Al Kean, June 2013, The Farmer

In the March 2013 issue of The Farmer, a Viewpoint article written by Larry Gunderson with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency explained various sources of excess sediment in the Minnesota River Basin. Al Kean with the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources offered this article to discuss ways to address excess sediment and nutrients through multipurpose drainage management

[Minnesota takes lead in curbing farm runoff](#)

Charley Shaw, June 12th, 2013, Politics in Minnesota

Under the terms of a bill that passed the Legislature this spring, Minnesota is embarking on a first-of-its-kind experiment in preventing agricultural runoff from contaminating the state's streams.

[U.S. EPA tells Minnesota to do a better job of preventing water pollution](#)

Josephine Marcotty, June 13th, 2013, StarTribune

[Secretary Vilsack and Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton launch new water quality pilot program for state's farmers](#)

Margaret Hart, June 10th, 2013,

Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) News Release

U.S. Agricultural Secretary Tom Vilsack and Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton today officially launched a new agricultural water quality pilot program designed to enhance water quality in the state.

[Buffer, easements find session funds](#)

Joe Albert, June 13th, 2013, Outdoor News

St. Paul — As did other state agencies, the Board of Water and Soil Resources emerged from the legislative session with a larger General Fund budget than it's seen in recent years. The increase amounts to 1 percent, though the agency also receives funds from a variety of other sources, including both the Outdoor Heritage and Clean Water funds.

[Efforts on land, water cleaning Colby Lake](#)

Jim Anderson, June 15th, 2013,

StarTribune

On the surface, so to speak, Colby Lake is

Federal regulators have ordered Minnesota to impose more stringent limits on pollutants discharged into the state's lakes and rivers, an unusual step that could threaten state authority to enforce the nation's clean-water laws.

[Roadsides as Habitat](#)

Conrad deFiebre, June 17, 2013, Minnesota 2020

More than 500,000 acres of permanent grassland habitat in Minnesota's pheasant range lie along roadsides, a little known and often despoiled resource for wildlife proliferation and environmental preservation.

[Dayton asks feds to open CRP lands to haying, grazing](#)

Doug Smith, June 17, 2013, StarTribune
Gov. Mark Dayton has asked the U.S. Department of Agriculture to allow emergency haying and grazing on lands enrolled in the federal Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and Wetland Reserve Program (WRP).

[House rejects massive farm bill that would have cut food stamps](#)

Jim Spencer, June 20th, 2013, StarTribune
WASHINGTON – The House of Representatives stumbled over a divisive plan to cut food stamps and failed Thursday to pass a five-year farm bill.

one of several pretty bodies of water clustered in the western part of Woodbury, the focal point of nearby housing developments, encircled by a well-kept trail popular with joggers, bicyclists and dog walkers.

[Gov. Dayton asks feds to ease rules on livestock grazing after tough winter](#)

Joe Kimball, June 17th, 2013, MinnPost
Gov. Mark Dayton is still on his trade trip to Sweden, Norway and Germany, but his office said he's sent a letter to Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack asking for federal help for state livestock producers.

[Goodhue County Adopts Frac Sand Mining Rules](#)

Jennie Olson, June 19th, 2013, KSTP
Goodhue County in southeastern Minnesota has adopted new regulations for the growing frac sand mining industry.

[St. Louis River muskies appear to weather flood](#)

Sam Cook, June 23rd, 2013, MPRnews
Sampling by Minnesota and Wisconsin fisheries crews this spring turned up lots of muskies. In five days on the river, Department of Natural Resources crews from the two states trapped and released 187 muskies from 17.8 inches to 50.7 inches long, said Dan Wilfond, Minnesota DNR fisheries specialist at French River. But only two fish were longer than 50 inches.

Events

June 24th -
June 30th

WEI'S 2013 Organic Farm School: Moving the Good Food Revolution, "The Edible City"

Monday, June 24th, 2013 from 6:00-8:00 P.M.

Location: Midtown Global Market Greenway Conference Room
920 E. Lake St., Minneapolis, MN

Brief Description: A film screening and discussion with Maggie McKenna (Permaculture Research Institute Cold Climate)
For more information visit <http://www.w-e-i.org/wei039s-2013-organic-farm-school-you-can-pay-individual-classes-or-register-whole-lecture-series> or call (651) 583-0705

Riverfest

Thursday, June 27th to June 2013

Location: Dawson, MN

Brief Description: Dawson's 2013 Riverfest is June 27-30. Events include Boat Parade, Softball Tournaments, bingo, Riverfest Parade, food, craft fair, movie in the park, Firemans' Dance, and more!

For more information visit

<http://dawsonchamber.files.wordpress.com/2013/06/riverfest-brochure-2013.pdf> or call (320) 769-2981

Archery in the Park

Friday, June 28th, 2013 at 3:00 P.M.

Location: Fort Ridgely State Park, Fairfax, MN

Brief Description: The sport of shooting arrows has been around for thousands of years. First we did it as a way to hunt animals and later as a way to compete against others. Archery is an activity that people from all walks of life and almost every size and ability can participate and have fun. This program covers the basics of archery including safety, proper care of the equipment and how to shoot an arrow. Participants will be able to practice their new skills on a number of different targets including a white-tail deer and wild turkey. Meet at the Creek Picnic Area.

For more information contact Scott Kudelka (507) 384-8890 or scott.kudelka@state.mn.us

Beaver Ecology

Friday, June 28th, 2013 at 7:00 P.M.

Location: Fort Ridgely State Park, Fairfax, MN

Brief Description: We will learn what makes this mammal special and show off some of its unique characteristics by dressing someone like a beaver. As the largest rodent in North America, the beaver has had a major effect on this continent's history. The program will cover the ecology of the beaver and some of its physical adaptations. Meet at the Creek Picnic Area.

For more information contact Scott Kudelka (507) 384-8890 or scott.kudelka@state.mn.us

Archery in the Park

Saturday, June 29th, 2013 at 1:00 P.M.

Location: Minneopa State Park, Mankato, MN

Brief Description: The sport of shooting arrows has been around for

thousands of years. First we did it as a way to hunt animals and later as a way to compete against others. Archery is an activity that people from all walks of life and almost every size and ability can participate and have fun. This program covers the basics of archery including safety, proper care of the equipment and how to shoot an arrow. Participants will be able to practice their new skills on a number of different targets including a white-tail deer and wild turkey. Meet at the Group Campground on the Campground Side of Minneopa State Park.

For more information contact Scott Kudelka (507) 384-8890 or scott.kudelka@state.mn.us

Waterfalls of the Minnesota River Valley

Saturday, June 29th, 2013 at 5:00 P.M.

Location: Falls area at Minneopa Creek State Park, Mankato, MN

Brief Description: The Minnesota River Basin is blessed with a diverse and amazing selection of waterfalls as rivers and creeks flow off the former upland prairie down into the deep river valley. By taking a journey with photographs we will talk about some of the more famous ones like Ramsey Falls that drops into the Redwood River and others like Maya Ska Dan Falls that are less visible to the public. Of course the highlight of this program is a walk to check out the double falls of Minneopa Creek and hopefully a chance to go down below the lower falls. Please meet in the parking lot of the Falls Area at Minneopa Creek State Park.

For more information contact Scott Kudelka (507) 384-8890 or scott.kudelka@state.mn.us

River Otter Ecology

Saturday, June 29th, 2013 at 7:00 P.M.

Location: Minneopa State Park, Mankato, MN

Brief Description: This social mammal is known for its child-like personality and often appears to spend time playing. After a significant decline due to hunting, trapping and loss of habitat, the otter population is beginning to make a comeback in the Minnesota River Basin. We will learn about some of the special characteristics of a River Otter and what this animal tells us about the quality of our rivers, lakes and wetlands. One lucky person will get the chance to dress like an otter! Meet at the picnic area on the campground side.

For more information contact Scott Kudelka (507) 384-8890 or scott.kudelka@state.mn.us

2 nights, 3 Day Big Stone Lake Down to Upper Sioux State Agency

Saturday, June 29th to Monday, July 1st, 2013

Brief Description: Three days and two nights beginning at the upper part of the Minnesota River Watershed 4 miles south of Ortonville down to Upper Sioux Agency State Park.

For more information <http://www.cureriver.org/calendar/upcoming/>
or (320) 269-2984

Independence Day

Sunday, June 30th, 2013 from 1:00-4:00 P.M.

Location: Harkin Store, 66250 County Road 21, New Ulm, MN, 56073

Brief Description: Early celebration of U.S.A's Independence day.

Activities include firing an 1862 cannon by the New Ulm Battery, historical stories of 1870's West Newton and the Harkin Store, cold treats, and shopping.

For more information contact Harkin Store (507) 354-8666 or Nicollet County Historical Society (507) 934-2160

July 1st -
July 7th

WEI'S 2013 Organic Farm School: Moving the Good Food Revolution, "Meet the Farmers Panel"

Monday, July 1st, 2013 from 6:00-8:00 P.M.

Location: Midtown Global Market Greenway Conference Room
920 E. Lake St., Minneapolis, MN

Brief Description: Discussion with local farmers.

For more information visit <http://www.w-e-i.org/wei039s-2013-organic-farm-school-you-can-pay-individual-classes-or-register-whole-lecture-series> or call (651) 583-0705

Summerfest

Monday July 1st to July 4th, 2013

Location: Madison, MN

Brief Description: Come to Madison to join us for lots of activities & outdoor for all ages.

For more information call (320) 598-7301

SW MN's Largest Fireworks Display

Wednesday July 3rd, 2013

Location: Granite Falls, MN

Brief Description: This is a great family night with lots of activities. Come join us for the fun.

For more information contact Prairie's Edge Casino (320) 564-3853

July 8th -
July 14th

WEI'S 2013 Organic Farm School: Moving the Good Food Revolution, "Seed Saving with the Seed Technician Magician"

Monday, July 8th, 2013

Location: Urban Farm Project

Brief Description: Annelie Lindberg-Livingston (Women's Environmental Institute) and Chad Herbert (Urban Farm Project)

For more information visit <http://www.w-e-i.org/wei039s-2013-organic-farm-school-you-can-pay-individual-classes-or-register-whole-lecture-series> or call (651) 583-0705

2013 Monte-Granite Riverfront Disc Classic

Saturday, July 13th to Sunday, July 14th, 2013

For more information and schedule of events visit
<http://www.cureriver.org/calendar/upcoming/> or (320) 269-2984

Birding Renville County's Skalbekken Park

Saturday July 13th, 2013 from 6:00-10:00 A.M.

Brief Description: See and hear mid-summer birds in a lush county park.

For more information

<http://www.cureriver.org/calendar/upcoming/> or (320) 269-2984

WEI's 2013 Organic Farm School: Moving the Good Food Revolution, "Tour of Seed Savers Exchange"

Saturday, July 13th, 2013

Location: Decorah, IA

Brief Description: Car caravan and farm tour at Seed Savers Exchange in Decorah, IA.

For more information <http://www.w-e-i.org/wei039s-2013-organic-farm-school-you-can-pay-individual-classes-or-register-whole-lecture-series> or call (651) 583-0705

Lac qui Parle Mission Sunday

Sunday, July 14th, 2013

Location: Watson, MN

Brief Description: Historical event.

For more information contact Montevideo Chamber of Commerce (320) 269-5527

July 15th -
July 21st

Paddling the MN River Watershed: One Day Chippewa River Trip

Saturday July 20th, 2013

For more

information <http://www.cureriver.org/calendar/upcoming/> or (320) 269-2984

July 22nd -
July 28th

WEI'S 2013 Organic Farm School: Moving the Good Food Revolution, "It All Comes Down to 'Humus'"

Monday, July 22nd, 2013

Location: Midtown Global Market Greenway Conference Room
920 E. Lake St., Minneapolis, MN

Brief Description: Professor Pat Farrell (UMD - Department of Geography)

For more information visit <http://www.w-e-i.org/wei039s-2013-organic-farm-school-you-can-pay-individual-classes-or-register-whole-lecture-series> or call (651) 583-0705

Job Announcements:

Minnesota River Specialist

Department: Natural Resources Department

Closing Date: June 28th, 2013

Location(s): Hutchinson, MN

Who may apply: All qualified job seekers

Responsibilities: This position exists to implement a long-term monitoring program that measures the health of the entire Minnesota River main channel biota through annual fish population and fish habitat assessments. Inferences regarding the health of the main channel MN River may entail tributary or off-channel/oxbow sampling to identify critical habitat contributing to the biota of the entire MN River.

In addition, this position will provide technical direction to watershed planning, implementation, and stream restoration activities. Planning and implementation activities include ensuring that all stakeholders are involved with plan development, implementation, and coordinating with MN DNR divisions, local, state, and federal agencies, local government units, academia, and other interest groups and private citizens.

Primary Responsibilities include:

- Develop, initiate, coordinate, and conduct long term monitoring of fish in the Minnesota River proper and its floodplain tributaries; and use the information to draft management plans.
- Function as team leader for large river and special surveys of the Minnesota River Valley main channel and floodplain habitat to ensure that current fish information is available for management planning and sharing with decision-makers.
- Evaluate alternative approaches of land and water management as it relates to river restoration and aquatic habitat improvements and advise resource managers on techniques that best suit the improvement of various river and stream ecosystems that sustain a healthy fishery.
- Provide technical support to Regional and Area Fisheries staff and other disciplines that will help advance comprehensive biological management planning of large riverine systems.
- Develop and manage the annual work plan and budget for the Minnesota River Valley long term fish and biota assessment so that priority projects are planned, funded, and implemented according to MN DNR goals and objectives.
- Assist with project environment reviews, identifying impacts to natural resources, and provide recommendations based on watershed and river management principles so that natural resources are adequately protected or enhanced.
- Disseminate information to the general public, resort and business operators, civic groups, educational institutions, and local governmental units to ensure they are well informed on current fisheries programs, issues and river recreational opportunities.

For more information <http://www.careers.state.mn.us/> Posting Number # 13DNR000545

Peterson Hatchery Supervisor

Department: Natural Resources Department

Closing Date: June 28th, 2013

Location(s): Peterson, MN

Who may apply: All qualified job seekers

Responsibilities: Oversees the direction and implementation for the salmonid production program at the Peterson State Fish Hatchery, supervises employees, administers the budget and business operations of the hatchery, direct maintenance of hatchery facilities, grounds and equipment, and coordinate the statewide distribution and stocking of trout produced at this hatchery.

Core Activities

- *Direct and assist with fish culture operations at Peterson hatchery so that production quotas for the State's coldwater stocking program are safely met with good quality, disease free, healthy fish.
- *Supervise employees to perform assigned job duties safely and effectively, and to administer personnel transactions at Peterson hatchery.
- *To manage the business administration and office operations so that activities are meet cost accounting requirements, reports and requisitions completed and accounts payable paid in a satisfactory and timely manner.
- *Direct maintenance, development and upkeep of the facility, ensure that equipment and operations remain operational and updated, and that hatchery grounds are neat and orderly.
- *Coordinate onsite training as required or requested, serve on various hatchery or statewide committees as requested and conduct an effective public relations and education program to inform the public of coldwater hatchery operations and their role in the DNR's Coldwater Management Program.
- *Maintain accountability for safety performance so that employees will perform tasks according to established safety procedures and reduce injuries and equipment damages.
- *Will be required to live on site at the facility.

For more information <http://www.careers.state.mn.us/> Posting Number # 13DNR000549

Pollution Control Specialist

Department: Pollution Control Agency

Closing Date: June 28th, 2013

Location(s): St. Paul, MN

Who may apply: All qualified job seekers

Responsibilities: This position works in the federal National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Construction Stormwater Permit Program; this program ensures compliance with the Construction Stormwater general permit/rules in order to protect and improve Minnesota's water quality and natural resources.

The primary responsibility of the position is conducting construction site inspections and enforcing permit conditions. The position conducts field and desk evaluations of construction projects and determines if the projects are in compliance with appropriate sediment and erosion control practices and if the projects have an impact on water quality. This position also performs MS4 permitting: conducts reviews of Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans and by conducts Stormwater Program audits.

The incumbent provides education on stormwater requirements; provides compliance assistance, and cooperates with other state and local units of government doing similar work.

For more information <http://www.careers.state.mn.us/> Posting Number # 13PCA000107

NR Worker

Department: Natural Resources Department

Closing Date: July 1st. 2013

Location(s): Blue Mounds State Park

Who may apply: All qualified workers

Responsibilities: his is a seasonal, part-time (90%) position with normal season dates from

approximately May 24th through September 2nd. Typical work schedule will generally be four or five 8-hour days per week. Hours will vary between 8AM - 9:30PM. Days of work will vary and will include weekdays, weekends, and holidays.

This position performs a variety of tasks involved in routine operations and maintenance of the state park.

Responsibilities include:

1. Perform routine cleaning tasks (e.g., wash windows, floors, walls, ceilings, toilets, fixtures, vehicles).
2. Collect and dispose of litter and other waste products (e.g., pick up trash, empty garbage cans, clean ashes from fire rings).
3. Perform routine grounds maintenance (e.g., mow and trim grass and weeds; rake; plant seeds, trees and shrubs; cut or remove weeds; prune tree branches and shrubs; remove brush and hazardous trees).
4. Assist with maintenance and development tasks (e.g., haul and dump gravel; patch trail surfaces; install and replace signs, posts and fire rings).
5. Paint facilities and other structures (e.g., buildings, walls, doors, picnic tables, signs, posts).
6. Load, unload and deliver supplies, equipment, firewood and other materials.

For more information <http://www.careers.state.mn.us/> Posting Number # 13DNR000533

Area Hydrologist

Department: Natural Resources Department

Closing Date: July 2nd, 2013

Location(s): Mankato, MN

Who may apply: Only current state employees

Responsibilities: This position exists to ensure sustainability of the State's water resources through management of the activities of the public within the South District of the Southern Region, with focus on Blue Earth, Watonwan, Faribault, Waseca, Nicollet and Martin Counties. This position also completes work assignments that involve District, Regional, and state-wide projects and policy.

For more information <http://www.careers.state.mn.us/> Posting Number # 13DNR000573

Dairy Inspector

Department: Agriculture Department, Dairy & Food Inspection Division

Closing Date: July 2nd, 2013

Location(s): Sauk Centre area with responsibility for Western Stearns and Southern Todd counties

Who may apply: All qualified job seekers

Responsibilities: This position exists to carry out the responsibilities and programs of the Dairy Division to assure safe and wholesome milk and dairy products for the consumer and to maintain interstate markets for Minnesota's Dairy Industry. This position performs routine food-safety based inspections for dairy farms and processing plants so that the public health is protected by ensuring safety of dairy products.

For more information: <http://www.careers.state.mn.us/> Posting Number # 13AGR000060

Seed & Noxious Weed Specialist

Department: Agriculture Department, Plant Protection Division

Closing Date: July 3rd, 2013

Location(s): Koochiching, MN; St. Louis, MN; Lake, MN; Cook, MN; Itasca, MN; Aitkin, MN; Carlton, MN; Pine, MN; Mille Lacs, MN; Kanabec, MN; Benton, MN; Sherburne, MN; Isanti, MN; Chisago, MN; Wright, MN; and Anoka, MN.

Who may apply: All qualified job seekers

Responsibilities: The position exists to perform professional level regulatory/investigatory work in a designated work area and provides professional level technical support of the Seed Regulatory Program so that purchasers of seed have protection from mislabeled or unfit products. The position will ensure the seed industry receives fair trade practices regulation; assist the Plant Protection Division management in achieving the goals and representing the accomplishments of the unit; and, assist the unit with the responsibility to enforce provisions of Minnesota Statutes sections 21.80 to 21.92, the Minnesota Seed Law; M.S. sections 18.76 to 18.92, the Minnesota Noxious Weed Law, and M.S. sections 21.71 to 21.78, the Minnesota Screenings Act. This position also serves to provide assistance to other programs within the Plant Protection Division and department, county state and federal agencies, appropriate private organizations and individuals.

For more information <http://www.careers.state.mn.us/> Posting Number # 13AGR000062

Regional Clean Water Specialist

Department: Water & Soil Resources Board

Closing Date: July 15th, 2013

Location(s): St. Paul, MN

Who may apply: All qualified job seekers

Responsibilities: This Clean Water Specialist will perform duties necessary for the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) to carry out its statutory responsibilities under the Clean Water Legacy Act and the Clean Water Fund appropriation authority in Minnesota with a primary focus on the Twin Cities Metro Region. This position will provide administrative and advanced technical assistance, leadership and implementation guidance to BWSR staff, soil and water conservation districts, watershed districts, watershed management organizations, cities, and counties. This position will provide senior level leadership in the development and implementation of non-point pollution restoration and protection plans, watershed management plans, TMDL implementation plans and will also pilot planning activities under the recently enacted Comprehensive Water Management Planning process. This position will provide coordination of activities with soil and water conservation districts, watershed districts, watershed management organizations, cities and counties in the Metro Region, between state and federal agencies such as the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, the Departments of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Health, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Metropolitan Council.

For more information <http://www.careers.state.mn.us/> Posting Number # 13BWSR000018

“Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts. There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature -- the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after winter.”

- Rachel Carson, Silent Spring

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 Basin.