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## Minnesota River Weekly Update

November 11th, 2013

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### **MPCA completes 63 enforcement cases in third quarter of 2013**

St. Paul, Minn. 3/4 in its ongoing efforts to promote environmental compliance, the MPCA concluded 63 enforcement cases in 39 counties throughout Minnesota during the third quarter of 2013. Penalties from all 63 enforcement in 39 counties throughout Minnesota during the third quarter of 2013. Penalties from all 63 cases totaled just over \$577,000. About 45% of that total will be spent toward the completion of two supplemental environmental projects. Vonco V of Duluth will spend \$240,000 to remove hazardous materials, demolish buildings, dispose of building materials, and conduct site-restoration activities at what could amount to about 20 blighted properties in Duluth. The Hibbing Public Utilities Commission will spend \$17,250 on improvements to its facilities to reduce dust emissions. Imposing monetary penalties is only part of the MPCA's enforcement process. Agency staff continue to provide assistance, support and information on the steps and tools necessary to achieve compliance for any company or local government that requests it.

A complete summary of environmental enforcement actions and news releases can be found on the [MPCA's News Media Center webpage](#). For questions on specific enforcement cases, please contact Stephen Mikkelson, Information Officer at (218) 316-3887, or toll free at (800) 657-3864.

### **Minnesota River Blueway designation with your help, it can be a reality!**

Hello Minnesota River Enthusiasts/Lovers/Huggers that also have a Facebook page...In an effort to convince the U.S. DOI, and especially the DOI Secretary Sally Jewel, to designate the Minnesota River as a National Blueway. Scott Sparlin asks on behalf of all entities working on the Minnesota River Blueway Working Team, to go to the facebook page for the Minnesota River Blueway and all you need to do is "like" them <https://www.facebook.com/minnesotariverblueway>. They track electronic endorsements and emails sent in this regard quite closely. In a short while, the team along with help from all of our partners and the Minnesota River Watershed Alliance, will be launching a postcard blitz - of which you can also participate - both electronically and

through the U.S. email. Thank you, stay tuned, and keep sending good vibes for this all to come about. The designation has potentially huge implications for us here in the watershed. Feel free to forward this along and ask for additional support.

### **Minnesota River Board Meeting Nov. 25 in Renville County**

The [Minnesota River Board](#) is scheduled to meet at 9 a.m., Monday November 25th at the Sheep Shedde in Olivia. At its regular meeting Sept. 30 in Henderson, the Board continued discussions from the previous meeting about how to proceed with a re-organizations. Board Director Shannon Fisher and Board of Minnesota Water and Soil Resources staff presented some alternative structures. Board members will be consulting with their respective county boards prior to the Nov. 25 meeting.

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## ARTICLES

### **[DOE awards \\$84 million carbon-capture projects](#)**

*Matthew Daly, Nov. 7, MPR News*

WASHINGTON (AP) -- The Energy Department said Thursday it has awarded \$84 million to 18 projects across the country to help limit carbon dioxide emissions from coal-fired power plants. The projects focus on so-called carbon-capture technologies intended to limit pollution blamed for global warming.

### **[Here, drink a nice glass of sparkling clear wastewater](#)** (with audio)

*Amy Standen, Nov. 7, KQED Public Media*

In California's Silicon Valley, there will soon be a new source of water for residents. That may not sound like big news, but the source of this water - while certainly high-tech - is raising some eyebrows. With freshwater becoming more scarce in many parts of the country, the public may have to overcome its aversion to water recycling.

### **[Report: Measure Great Lakes cleanup progress](#)**

*John Flesher, Nov. 8, MPR News*

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. (AP) -- A government report says the US EPA should do more to make sure a Great Lakes cleanup program is meeting its goals.

### **[Minnesota opens its 2nd wolf season Saturday](#)**

*Nov. 8, MPR News*

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) -- Minnesota opens its wolf hunting season Saturday with a sharply lower harvest goal than last year when the animals were first taken off the endangered list.

### **[Readers offer ideas to improve farmland conservation](#)**

*Nov. 9, Star Tribune*

In response to dwindling grassland and wetland habitat in Minnesota, and the resulting loss of game and nongame wildlife, Dennis Anderson recently asked readers to forward suggestions how to improve farmland conservation in the state.

### **[Slowing demand for frac sand changes the landscape in southeast Minnesota](#)**

*Elizabeth Baier, Nov. 10, MPR News*

SARATOGA TOWNSHIP, Minn. - In the middle of a farm in Saratoga township, there's a 150-foot-tall hill, one of the highest points in Winona County. "This hill is surrounded by cropland," Rowekamp said. "When we lower it, it'll still be higher than what the cropland is and we'll turn it back into prairie again."

### **[Climate change opens door to forest pests new to Great Lakes](#)**

*Jessica Batanian, Nov. 11, Great Lakes Echo*

The mimosa webworm was nowhere to be found on the honeylocust trees at Michigan State University 20 years ago. But within the past decade, warming temperatures made the East Lansing, Michigan campus an appealing home for this destructive bug.

### **[Body found in Minnesota River likely missing kayaker](#)**

*Nov. 9, Kare 11*

ST.PETER, Minn. - A body was recovered from the Minnesota River on west of Judson on Saturday morning. The Nicollet County Sheriff's Office said that the body was found at about 11:30 a.m. It was located in a log jam by a fisherman.

### **[Allele buys Minnesota wind farm, two others](#)**

*Jim Hammerand, Nov. 11, Minneapolis/St.Paul*

### **[Sierra Club takes on Minnesota coal-fired power plants](#)**

*Business Journal*

Allete Inc. has a deal to buy wind farms in Minnesota, Iowa, and Oregon for \$27 million. A subsidiary of the Duluth-based energy company. Allete Clean Energy, would take the three wind farms over in 2014, including a facility in Lake Benton.

*Nov. 12, MPR News*

ST. PAUL, Minn. - An environmental group is holding a dozen events around the state Tuesday to urge Minnesota's utilities to move away from coal-fired power.

**Xcel, advocates at odds over Minnesota solar garden rules**

*Dan Haugen, Nov. 11, Midwest Energy News*  
As customers begin putting money down to join one of Minnesota's first community solar gardens, new comments to state regulators reveal significant disagreements about how the program should work.

**Northeastern Minnesota egg company is among 4 finalists for Super Bowl ad**

*Associated Press, Nov. 12, Star Tribune*  
WRENSHALL, Minn. - A local egg producer from a tiny northeastern Minnesota community has emerged from tens of thousands of entries to become a finalist for a free Super Bowl commercial.

**Ethanol helps spur corn's northward move in Minnesota**

*Associated Press, Nov. 12, Post-Bulletin*  
Corn is marching northward in Minnesota, spurred in part by higher prices from the ethanol boom and by new varieties that mature before the frost sets in.

**Latest farm bill roadblock? It's about the eggs**

*Brett Neely, Nov. 12, MPR News*  
WASHINGTON - A dispute over a 2010 California law concerning the treatment of egg-laying chickens looks like it may add to the complications for congressional negotiators trying to reach agreement on a new five-year farm bill this week.

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## EVENTS

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**Nov. 11-Nov. 17**

**Cover Crop Field Day**

Wednesday, November 13, 2013 @ 1 - 3 p.m.

**Location:** 39750 820th St., Lakefield, MN

**Brief Description:** Join partners for a cover crop discussion at the Ackermann farm near Lakefield, Minnesota. Heron Lake Watershed District (HLWD), Jerry and Nancy Ackermann, and Jerry and Terry Perkins were awarded a National Wildlife Federation (NWF) Cover Crop Champions grant to promote cover crop adoption. A cover crop mixture of winter cereal rye, tillage radish, and purple top turnip was planted into standing corn airplane in early Sept. 2013 just west of the Ackermann farmstead. This aerial application allows for a longer cover crop growing season in the corn-soybean system. The Ackermanns chose the cover crop species for their ability to scavenge nitrogen, add organic matter to the soil, increase water infiltration, decrease soil erosion, and reduce weed competition. Attendees will be able to hear about the NWF project being conducted by the Ackermanns, Perkins, and HLWD, learn about cover crop benefits, and view the cover crops in the field. This is an outdoor event; please dress accordingly.

**Agenda:**

12:45 p.m. - Registration  
1:00 p.m. - Welcome and Introduction  
1:10 p.m. - Jerry Ackermann & Jerry Perkins  
2:00 p.m. - Andy Nesseth, Extended Ag  
2:15 p.m. - Jill Sackett, University of Minnesota  
2:30 p.m. - Karen Boysen, Jackson NRCS  
2:45 p.m. - Stephanie McLain, Nobles NRCS  
3:15 p.m. - View cover crops

For more information call (507) 793-2462 or email [jan.voit@mysmbs.com](mailto:jan.voit@mysmbs.com)

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**Documentary Film Series-Kind Hearted Woman (2 part series)**

Thursday, November 14, 2013 @ 7p.m. (part 2)

**Location:** Treaty Site History Center

**Brief Description:** Please join us for the 2013-14 documentary film series. A partnership between St. Peter Community and Family Education and the Nicollet County Historical Society,

Kind Hearted Woman, Part 1, 114 min, Not Rated

Kind Hearted Woman, Part 2, 174 min, Not Rated

In a special two-part series, acclaimed filmmaker David Sutherland creates an unforgettable portrait of Robin Charboneau, a 32-year-old divorced single mother and Oglala Sioux woman living on North Dakota's Spirit Lake Reservation. Sutherland follows Robin over three years as she struggles to raise her two children, further her education, and heal herself from the wounds of sexual abuse she suffered as a child. "As in my other films profiling rural poverty," says Sutherland, "I was trying to reach out to another forgotten corner of the American landscape, this time to put a face on a Native family so that we could see them close-up with all the detail that illuminates the rich reality of their lives." Admission to the film series is free for all.

For more information call the Historical Society at (507) 934-2160 or email [museum@nchsmn.org](mailto:museum@nchsmn.org)

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#### **Rural Advantage 10th Anniversary Celebration**

Friday, November 15, 2013 @ 2-4 p.m.

**Location:** Rural Advantage Office, 1243 Lake Avenue, Fairmont, MN

**Brief Description:** Rural Advantage, a nonprofit corporation, was formed on November 13, 2003 by Linda Meschke and her partners to promote the intersection of agriculture, the environment and rural communities. By looking at water quality solutions more comprehensively, efforts can be more effective in reaching challenging goals. Rural Advantage's core work surrounds 3rd crops and other forward thinking environmental initiatives to address agricultural nonpoint source pollution. Supporting programming includes Local Foods Initiative, Madelia Model and EcoPayPack (Ecological Commodity Payment Package). Since forming, Rural Advantage has received sixty grants totaling just over \$4 million supporting a variety of initiatives within their nonprofit missions. Please join us from 2-4 p.m. on Friday, November 15th in Fairmont. Light refreshments will be served featuring 3rd crops.

For more information call the Rural Advantage office (507) 238-5449 or [linda@ruraladvantage.org](mailto:linda@ruraladvantage.org).

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#### **Card Artistry at the Cox**

Friday, November 15th, 2013 @ 8:30 p.m.

**Location:** E. St. Julien Cox House

**Brief Description:** There is a magic show in St. Peter. At the Cox House, once a month, Michael Callahan creates his own little Magic Castle. Join Michael in the parlor for a session of close up marvels. Why the Cox House? 1871. 2013. So much of life in Saint Peter has changed since the Cox House was built. But in an art form that capitalizes upon the blind spots in the human brain, not much has changed at all. Join Michael at the historic Cox House for an evening of Victorian atmosphere, charm and magic. Together we will explore the ways that our brains are susceptible to illusions and the way magicians have been exploiting these blind spots for over a century. Tickets \$10 dollars at the door.

For more information contact the Nicollet County Historical Society (507) 934-2160

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#### **Kiwanis Holiday Lights**

Saturday, November 16 - Sunday, November 17, 2013 @ 9 a.m. - 5p.m.

**Location:** Sibley Park, Mankato, MN

**Brief Description:** Support the 2nd year of this Mankato area holiday tradition by setting up our Community Engagement Christmas Tree and decorating and monitoring the park throughout the lights display! Individuals and teams are being signed up to work a.m. and p.m. shifts on Saturdays and Sundays from Oct. 26 - Nov. 24. There will also be opportunities to support the cause through the month of December and then to take down the even in January! Get your name on the list

today to make sure you are on board and make warm memories as the holiday season ensues!

For more information email [MSU Mankato Office of Community Engagement](#) or call (507) 389-5789.

**Nov. 18-Nov. 24**

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**The Monarch Butterfly's Dwindling Numbers: A Discussion with Monarch Expert, Dr. Karen Oberhauser**

Tuesday, November 19, 2013 @ 6-9 p.m.

**Location:** REI in Bloomington

**Brief Description:** The Minnehaha Chapter of the Izaak Walton League presents *The Monarch Butterfly's Dwindling Numbers*, a free public event, to generate discussion about the decline of this wildlife spectacle. Many people do not understand the biology of the monarch and the present biological and climatic threats posed to the monarch. Dr. Karen Oberhauser will discuss exactly those threats monarchs face and explain the potential responses to these threats. This discussion will also touch on the amazing biology of migratory monarch populations, and the work of citizens and scientists in documenting monarch numbers at all stages of their migratory cycle. 6:30 p.m. food & socializing \*7 p.m. presentation & questions \*8 p.m. conversations with Dr. Oberhauser & book signing.

While the event is free, donations to the Monarch Butterfly Fund, an organization working to preserve monarch overwintering sites in Mexico, will be collected and appreciated. Contact [John Rust](#) at (763) 202-3346 with questions regarding this event.

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**Green Ideas and Ham Discussion: PolyMet mine project in NE Minnesota**

Tuesday, November 19, 2013 @ 8-9:30 p.m.

**Location:** Red Stag Supper Club, 509 1st Ave. NE, Minneapolis, MN

**Brief Description:** In just a few weeks, the new draft of the PolyMet mine Environmental Impact Statement will be made public. The proposed mining project sits in the Lake Superior basin and could result in sulfuric acid pollution, which would harm fish and wildlife, and increase mercury levels in the Lake Superior watershed. The plan reveals that contaminated water from the mining site would require 500 years of water treatment. On top of the risks from this mine in particular, approval of PolyMet could pave the way for future sulfide mines such as the Twin Metals project, just a few miles from the Boundary Waters wilderness area. As we discuss the details of PolyMet's plan, we'll hear from Kathryn Hoffman, an attorney with the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy, who's team of scientific experts is reviewing the mine plan. We'll also hear Matthew Anderson, the Director of Audubon Minnesota.

Armed with the facts, you can help protect Minnesota's environment and weigh in against the PolyMet sulfide mine project. We hope you'll join us for breakfast and a discussion of our efforts on this critical issue. [We need you to join this discussion.](#) As always, the event costs \$15 for each attendee. That includes a \$5 donation to Environment Minnesota and \$10 to Red Stag Supperclub.

Visit the [Environment Minnesota event page](#) for more information.

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**1st Annual GIS Day: Geospatial Thinking: Real-world solutions**

Wednesday, November 20, 2013 @ 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

**Location:** Minnesota State University

**Brief Description:**

Agenda

10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Poster Gallery (Student posters)

Vendor/Information Tables (Department of Geography, MSU-M; Dr. Mary T. Wooley Map Library, Memorial Library, MSU-M; RANGE, Geography student club; GIS

Division, City of Mankato, MN; GIS Division, City of Waseca, MN; GIS Division, Waseca County, MN; Water Resources Center, MSU-M; South Central College, Mankato, MN)

11 a.m. - 12 p.m. Student poster competition (Undergraduate/Graduate)  
12 - 1:30 p.m. Luncheon and Awards Ceremony  
1:30 - 2:30 p.m. Social hour

For more information and to RSVP email [Carol Reedstrom](mailto:Carol.Reedstrom) or call (507) 389-2617

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### **Green Lands, Blue Waters 2013 Conference**

Wednesday, November 20 - Thursday, November 21, 2013

**Location:** University of Minnesota, Minneapolis Campus

**Brief Description:** Conferees will discuss and learn how agriculture can change for the benefit of farmers, communities, and the environment. Working sessions, invited speakers, and poster presentations will provide ample opportunities for participants to learn how agriculture with Continuous Living Cover (CLC) is already working for Midwestern farmers and farm businesses; how these practices are targeted in watersheds; their environmental benefits, including improved soil health and water quality; and how government programs and policies are changing to better accommodate CLC crops. Deadlines are October 27 for hotel rooms and November 4 for conference registration.

You can find the agenda and registration materials at [Green Lands, Blue Watershed](http://GreenLandsBlueWatershed.com) website. Questions can be directed to [richardwarner@umn.edu](mailto:richardwarner@umn.edu)

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### **Millennials as Environmental Leaders: What Does the Future Hold?**

Wednesday, November 20, 2013 @ 7-8 p.m.

**Location:** Center of Energy and the Environment, Minneapolis, MN

**Brief Description:** Please join the Women's Environmental Network and the Center for Energy and the Environment for a panel discussion on entitled "Millennials as Environmental Leaders: What Does the Future Hold?" Panelists include: Kate Knuth, Director of the Boreas Leadership Program at the U of M Institute on the Environment; Deanna White, State Director of Clean Water Action. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, please visit [the event page](#).

**Members: join the panelists for a members-only dinner with our speakers from 5:30 pm to 6:55 pm!** Dinner will be at [Haute Dish](#) just around the corner from the Center for Energy and the Environment. Cocktails at 5:30 and dinner from 6-7 pm. RSVP and join the Women's Environmental Network! Dinner for Members-Only: Students \$10 (limit 10 only), Professionals: \$20 (limit 30). Memberships: Students \$15, Professionals \$35.

Access to this can be easy with public transit. Susan Solterman Audette is also arranging carpools/rideshare. To arrange this, contact [Susan](#) at (651) 260-7040.

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### **Bring Solar Power to Your Home!**

Wednesday, November 20, 2013 @ 7-8:15 p.m.

**Location:** Linden Hills Recreation Center, Minneapolis, MN

**Brief Description:** Are you curious about solar energy for your home, but don't know where to start? We can help! Join Clean Water Action and the Linden Hills Environment Committee the evening of Wednesday, November 20 to learn about solar power for your home. Experts in the solar energy field will be here to speak about the basics and the benefits of residential solar and the programs available to the public to add solar power to your energy mix.

Speakers to appear include:

Dustin Denison, Principal for Applied Energy Innovations

Diana McKeown, Metro CERT Director for the Great Plains Institute

If you have any questions, please contact [Dan Endreson](#) (612) 627-1528.

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### **Conservation Practices: From Farm Fix-it to Farm Portfolio**

Thursday, November 21, 2013 @ 12pm eastern

**Location:** Webinar

**Brief Description:** This webinar will introduce a unique perspective on determining conservation benefits - a Farm Natural Resource Portfolio. The portfolio contains five farm management units: farmscape, farmstead, livestock facilities, fields and pasture, and forests. Each unit contained in the farm operations is assessed with specific land management indices derived from USDA, university, and industry sources. Three pilot studies will be overviewed to illustrate how index scores are determined by whom, and how conservation values differ among stakeholders including the producer.

This webinar is sponsored by the [USDA NRCS East National Technology Support Center](#). Contact [Gail Brant](#), Sociologist, for assistance with the human element of resource conservation. Contact [Lynn Knight](#), Agricultural Economist, for more information about this webinar.

For more information and how to register/participate visit the [webinar information page](#).

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### **Green Gifts Fair**

Saturday, November 23, 2013 @ 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**Location:** Midtown Global Market in Minneapolis

**Brief Description:** Kick off the holidays at the 8th Annual Green Gifts Fair, hosted by Do It Green! Minnesota. This event is a celebration of local art and sustainable living, including artists, retailers, music, fashion, and demonstration. It is also the launch of the Do It Green! Directory 2014 Edition. Shop 70+ local eco-vendors for green, recycled, fair-trade and organic gifts. Come to sample foods and plan to eat lunch or dinner at the Midtown Global Market - offering over 30 global food options. Pick up a free copy of the new 2014 Do It Green! Directory - listing over 200 Do It Green! approved green businesses and organizations in Minnesota. Bring your own reusable shopping bags, coffee mug and plate and silverware set to reduce your waste at the event. Bring out own holiday lights to drop off for recycling. \$1 donation person accepted at the door.

For more information on the event visit [Do It Green!](#) website.

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### **Kiwanis Holiday Lights**

Saturday, November 23 - Sunday, November 24, 2013 @ 9 a.m. - 5p.m.

**Location:** Sibley Park, Mankato, MN

**Brief Description:** Support the 2nd year of this Mankato area holiday tradition by setting up our Community Engagement Christmas Tree and decorating and monitoring the park throughout the lights display! Individuals and teams are being signed up to work a.m. and p.m. shifts on Saturdays and Sundays from Oct. 26 - Nov. 24. There will also be opportunities to support the cause through the month of December and then to take down the even in January! Get your name on the list today to make sure you are on board and make warm memories as the holiday season ensues!

For more information email [MSU Mankato Office of Community Engagement](#) or call (507) 389-5789.

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**Nov. 25-Dec. 1**

### **Dad's Belgian Waffles**

Sunday, December 1, 2013 @ 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

**Location:** [Farmamerica](#)

**Brief Description:** Come for Dad's freshly made Belgian Waffles! A variety of toppings, sausage, and beverages will be included in your all you can eat ticket. \$7 per person and free for kids under 5.

For more information call Crystal Paulson (507) 835-2052 or email [Farmamerica](#).

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**MASWCD 77th Annual Meeting & 23rd Annual Trade Show**

Sunday, December 1, 2013 @ 2:30 - 9:30 p.m.

**Location:** Double Tree Hotel Bloomington, Minneapolis South, Bloomington, MN

**Agenda for Sunday**

2:30-4:30 p.m. - Pre-Convention Bonus Session  
SWCD Governance 101 Workshop - Joint Working Arrangements  
& Employment Liability Issues

5:00-7:00 p.m. - Registration Open

7:30-9:30 p.m. - Convention Kickoff Social

**Dec. 2-Dec. 8**

**MASWCD 77th Annual Meeting & 23rd Annual Trade Show**

Monday, December 2 - Tuesday, December 3, 2013

**Location:** Double Tree Hotel Bloomington, Minneapolis South, Bloomington, MN

**Agenda for Monday**

**7:00 a.m.** -- Continental Breakfast

**7:00-8:15 a.m.** -- Registration Opens

**8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.** -- Trade Show Open

**8:30-9:00 a.m.** -- Business Meeting

**9:00-10:00 a.m.** -- Keynote: Conservation Effects Assessment Program and Lesson Learned, *Tom Christensen, Associate Chief for Operations, USDA NRCS*

**10:00-10:30 a.m.** -- Refreshment Break in the Trade Show

**10:30-11:30 a.m.** -- Panel: The MPCA Report on Nitrogen in Surface Waters: What is means for SWCDs and Next Steps, *John Linc Stine, Commissioner, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Al Kean, Chief Engineer, Board of Water and Soil Resources. Justin Hanson, Technician, Mower Soil and Water Conservation District*

**11:45 a.m. - 1:45 p.m.** -- Awards Luncheon

**1:45 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.** -- Refreshment Break in the Trade Show

**2:30-3:30 p.m.** -- Concurrent Sessions

Responding to Elevated Nitrates in Groundwater - The Nitrogen Fertilizer Management Plan, *Bruce Montgomery, Fertilizer Non-Point Section Manager, Minnesota Department of Agriculture*

Status of the Ag Water Quality Certification Program (pilot watersheds), and Next Steps, *Brad Redlin, Project Manager, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, SWCD representatives*

Creating a Culture of Civility, *Toby Spanier and Lisa Hinz, University of MN Extension Center for Community Vitality*

**3:30-4:00 p.m.** -- Refreshment Break in the Trade Show

**4:00-5:00 p.m.** -- Concurrent Sessions

The Watershed Nitrogen Reduction Planning Tool, *William Lazarus, Department of Applied Economics, University of Minnesota David Wall, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency*

Positive Outcomes from SWCDs and Partners Managing Water on a Watershed Basis, *Doug Thomas, Senior Policy and Program Advisor, Board of Water and Soil Resources, SWCD representatives*

Soil health campaign and the role of cover crops, *Joshua Dukart, Burleigh County Soil Conservation District - North Dakota*

Importance of an SWCDs data practices policy, *Karin Sonneman - Winona County Attorney, Karen Clayton Ebert, Staff Counsel, Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust*

**5:30-7:30 p.m.** -- Dinner and entertainment

**7:00-7:30 p.m.** -- Auctions for Conservation

**Agenda for Tuesday**

**7:30-8:15 a.m.** -- Continental Breakfast

**7:30 a.m.** -- Registration Opens

**8:30-10:00 a.m.** -- Outstanding Conservationist Program: National Eagle Center out of Wabasha, MN

**8:30-10:00 a.m.** -- Business Meeting

**8:30-10:00 a.m.** -- Employee Sessions

Root River Field to Stream Partnership, *Kevin Kuehner, Minnesota Department of Agriculture*



Minimal Impact Design Standards - Information and Tools for SWCD Technician, *John Chapman, P.E., Erosion and Stormwater Management Certification Program, University of Minnesota - Bioproducts and Biosystems Engineering Department*

MNsure and Implications for SWCD Health Care Options, *Darcy Hitesman, attorney, Hitesman & Wold, P.A.*

- 10:00-10:30 a.m. -- Refreshment Break
- 10:00-11:45 a.m. -- Outstanding Conservationist Photos
- 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. -- Business Meeting
- 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. -- Employee Sessions

Joint Powers Agreements: Tools for SWCD/MDA Water Quality Project Partnerships, *Ron Struss, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, and SWCD representation*

Tree and Forest Establishment and Management in Minnesota's Prairie Region, *Mark Lindquist, Department of Natural Resources, Mark Oja, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service*

SWCD Audits and Pay Equity, *Michael Peterson, CPA, Peterson Company Ltd., Cyndee Gmach, Pay Equity Coordinator, Minnesota Management & Budget*

- 12:15-2:15 p.m. -- Outstanding Conservationist Luncheon and Awards, Closing Comments

For more information and descriptions of events go to the [MASWCD event](#) webpage.

**Dec. 9-Dec. 14**

**Nature's Nook**

Saturday, December 9, 2013 @ 9-11 a.m.

**Location:** Elk's Nature Center in Rasmussen Woods

**Brief Description:** Families and elementary school-aged children are invited to join us for an environmental story and activity time at Elk's Nature Center in Rasmussen Woods! We plan to host this once a month, perhaps more if there is interest. Join us as we explore the seasons through reading!

For more information email [MSU Mankato Office of Community Engagement](#) or call (507) 389-5789.

**JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GROUNDWATER PROTECTION HYDROLOGIST**

<b>Department:</b>	Ecological & Water Resources, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
<b>Closing Date:</b>	November 12, 2013
<b>Location(s):</b>	St. Paul, MN
<b>Who May Apply:</b>	All qualified job seekers
<b>Responsibilities:</b>	This position exists to provide professional work in ground water management, in the metro and southeast part of Minnesota. The position will increase the capacity of the EWR Division to assist with local water supply management in the face of growing stress on groundwater resources and associated impacts to domestic well users, municipal water supplies, and surface water resources. This position will work closely with Area Hydrologists and the Groundwater Unite as well as assist with the planning

and implementation of the North and East Groundwater Management Area.

Examples of work:

- Provide compliance with groundwater and public water rules, including approved permit conditions, compliant volume and pumping rates, and submission of required monitoring volumes.
- Provide input to resolution of long-term sustainable water supply concerns through establishing appropriate monitoring wells, setting of aquifer thresholds, limits of appropriation pumping rates and volumes.
- Provide input/direction concerning comprehensive planning efforts related to land use controls and resource stewardship, particularly as they pertain to water use.
- Identify areas of special concern for appropriation. Conduct and coordinate extensive hydrologic and hydrogeologic investigations to determine the impacts from and necessary management of over-appropriations affecting complex ground and surface water systems.
- Participate in management decisions for Ground Water Management Areas and identify additional areas of special concern for sustainable water supply. Maintain inventory of well logs submitted with permit applications.
- Draft ground water and surface water appropriation permits, and on a limited basis, public waters permits.
- Review preliminary well construction applications.
- Document and survey hydrologic events (flood, drought, climate change) and associated water use and prepare data for presentation to the general public, DNR and other local, state, and federal agencies.

For more information and how to apply visit <http://www.careers.state.mn.us/> Posting # 13DNR000762

### ASSISTANT MINING HYDROLOGIST

<b>Department:</b>	Ecological & Water Resources/Region 2, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
<b>Closing Date:</b>	November 12, 2013
<b>Location(s):</b>	Grand Rapids, MN
<b>Who May Apply:</b>	All qualified job seekers
<b>Responsibilities:</b>	<p>This position will design and coordinate the acquisition, interpretation and technical application of hydrologic data on the Mesabi Iron Range for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) environmental review, permit administration and mine land watershed reclamation for the purpose of promoting healthy watersheds.</p> <p>Job duties include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Conduct water management analysis of the seven taconite mining operations and other mining operations on the Mesabi Iron Range, based on current and proposed mining plans, to identify and quantify short-term and long-term hydrologic impacts and water permitting needs.</li> <li>● Work with mining company engineers, mining company consultants, State and</li> </ul>

Federal agencies and other stakeholders to address long-term hydrologic impacts and assure development of acceptable watershed restoration plans.

- Work with State and Federal agencies, public and local units of government and other stakeholders to keep them informed of hydrologic issues that affect them.
- Collaborate with Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources and other DNR staff to assess past, present and future mining impacts to headwater watersheds listed as 303d impaired water bodies.

For more information and how to apply visit <http://www.careers.state.mn.us/> Posting # 13DNR000798

## GROUNDWATER PROTECTION HYDROLOGIST

<b>Department:</b>	Ecological & Water Resources, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
<b>Closing Date:</b>	November 12, 2013
<b>Location(s):</b>	Sauk Rapids, MN
<b>Who May Apply:</b>	All qualified job seekers
<b>Responsibilities:</b>	<p>This position exists to provide professional work in groundwater and surface water management within the North District of Region 3. The position will increase the capacity of the EWR Division to assist with water appropriation permits and address monitoring and compliance issues with ground and surface water resources. This position will work closely with Area Hydrologists and the Groundwater Unit as well as assist with the planning and implementation of the Bonanza Valley Groundwater Management Area.</p> <p>Examples of Work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide compliance with groundwater and public water rules, including approved permit conditions, compliant volume and pumping rates, and submission of required monitoring volumes.</li> <li>• Provide input to resolution of long-term sustainable water supply concerns through establishing appropriate monitoring wells, setting of aquifer thresholds, limits of appropriation pumping rates and volumes.</li> <li>• Provide input/direction concerning comprehensive planning efforts related to land use controls and resource stewardship, particularly as they pertain to water use.</li> <li>• Identify areas of special concern for appropriation. Conduct and coordinate extensive hydrologic and hydrogeologic investigations to determine the impacts from and necessary management of over-appropriations affecting complex ground and surface water systems.</li> <li>• Participate in management decisions for Ground Water Management Areas and identify additional areas of special concerns for sustainable water supply. Maintain inventory of well logs submitted with permit applications</li> <li>• Draft ground water and surface water appropriation permits, and on a limited basis, public waters permits.</li> <li>• Review preliminary well construction applications.</li> <li>• Document and survey hydrologic events (flood, drought, climate change) and associated water use and prepare data for presentation to the general public,</li> </ul>

DNR and other local, state, and federal agencies.

For more information and how to apply visit <http://www.careers.state.mn.us/> Posting # 13DNR000793

### NR SPECIALIST INT-FISHERIES

<b>Department:</b>	Fish & Wildlife/Region 3, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
<b>Closing Date:</b>	November 12, 2013
<b>Location(s):</b>	Shakopee, MN
<b>Who May Apply:</b>	All qualified job seekers
<b>Responsibilities:</b>	<p>This position exists to develop, implement, and coordinate the accelerated urban fishing program in the three county (Carver, Hennepin, and Scott) West Metro Fisheries Area.</p> <p>Primary responsibilities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To establish and maintain an ongoing working relationship with local unit of government officials, including their parks and recreation staff, in order to develop and implement expanded fishing opportunities on waters within their parks, primarily for shore based anglers</li><li>• Investigate new methods for providing additional angling opportunities and new sources of fish to support these opportunities</li><li>• Monitor and assess new and ongoing programs and projects to ensure most efficient use of funding is being realized and the cost-benefit ratios are maximized</li><li>• Work with MnAqua program staff to increase learning experience and opportunities to catch fish during MnAqua sponsored fishing events</li><li>• Assist Area Fisheries office staff with traditional fish management programs.</li></ul> <p>For more information and how to apply visit <a href="http://www.careers.state.mn.us/">http://www.careers.state.mn.us/</a> Posting # 13DNR000509</p>

### STORMWATER SUPERVISOR

<b>Department:</b>	Municipal Stormwater Unit 1, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
<b>Closing Date:</b>	November 13, 2013
<b>Location(s):</b>	St. Paul, MN
<b>Who May Apply:</b>	Only current agency employees
<b>Responsibilities:</b>	<p>This position is the staff supervisor of the Municipal Compliance Unit 1. The position is responsible for leading MS4 permitting and compliance for the Stormwater Section, and for assisting other section supervisors in administering the Construction Stormwater and Industrial Stormwater compliance programs. Overall objectives include developing policy, guidance, and rules for the Stormwater Program, and participating in process improvement and the Information Systems Transformation Project as appropriate.</p> <p>Supervisory functions include hiring, rewarding, promoting, disciplining staff, assigning and reviewing work and directing work of staff, adjusting grievances and effectively</p>

recommending suspension and discharge of staff; administering applicable labor agreements and plans so that staff are treated equitably and individual unit outcomes are achieved.

This position requires 10% travel.

For more information and how to apply visit <http://www.careers.state.mn.us/> Posting # 13PCA000197

## CONNECTIONS COORDINATOR

<b>Department:</b>	Minnesota Zoological Garden
<b>Closing Date:</b>	November 14, 2013
<b>Location(s):</b>	Twin Cities Suburbs - South, MN
<b>Who May Apply:</b>	All qualified job seekers
<b>Responsibilities:</b>	<p>This position is responsible for developing and coordinating MN Zoo mission based programs that connect community audiences to animals and conservation experiences. Connections programs include special behind-the-scenes experiences, overnights, conservation travel programs, and adult enrichment classes and programs. It also serves as the lead worker in the Education Department, with responsibility for managing program-specific budgets; direct program content, educational methods, measures and evaluation techniques; and assist supervisor with program reporting and assessment.</p> <p>For more information and how to apply visit <a href="http://www.careers.state.mn.us/">http://www.careers.state.mn.us/</a> Posting # 13MZG000094</p>

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

<b>Department:</b>	Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation
<b>Closing Date:</b>	November 15, 2013
<b>Location(s):</b>	Hackensack, MN
<b>Who May Apply:</b>	All qualified job seekers
<b>Responsibilities:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Program Implementation and Management:</b> Leads conservation program planning and project implementation through outreach, civic engagement, negotiation of easements and acquisitions, and collaboration with other conservation organizations. Maintains a close working relationship with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and other state agencies as needed to implement conservation programs.</li><li>● <b>Board Support:</b> Works closely with the board to keep it informed, maintains corporate records, and participates in standing committees and fundraising activities.</li><li>● <b>Fundraising:</b> Directs and conducts fundraising and membership development activities and seeks financial support, grants, contracts and other assistance from individuals, foundations, corporations, and public agencies. Manages LLAWF database.</li><li>● <b>Communication / Public Relations:</b> Corresponds and conducts outreach with area</li></ul>

lake associations, regional county government, business community, community groups, etc. through newsletters, press releases, website and other communication channels.

- **Finance:** Jointly with the treasurer manages LLAWF's financial health, including preparation of monthly financial reports, drafting the annual budget, managing grants, and submitting state and federal financial reports.
- **General Administrative:** Handles LLAWF correspondence and routine administrative matters in a timely fashion.

For more information and how to apply visit [MEP Partnership Job Announcements](#).

### AREA HYDROLOGIST

<b>Department:</b>	Ecological and Water Resources, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
<b>Closing Date:</b>	November 18, 2013
<b>Location(s):</b>	Fergus Falls, MN
<b>Who May Apply:</b>	Only current state employees
<b>Responsibilities:</b>	<p>This position exists to ensure sustainability of the State's water resources through management of the activities of the public within a geographic work area comprised of Douglas, Grant, Pope, and Stevens counties. This position also completes work assignments that involve state-wide projects and policy.</p> <p>Duties include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide assistance to local communities, Rural Water Systems and other water appropriators regarding the management of both surface and groundwater water. Work with inter-agency Drinking Water/Groundwater team to define, prioritize and establish Water Appropriation and use Management Plans (Groundwater Management Areas) in Minnesota.</li> <li>• Provide advanced technical and planning assistance to state agencies, local government units, watershed districts, lake, river, and watershed associations and other teams in the development of watershed studies, including Major Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (MWRAPS).</li> <li>• Provide expertise in a variety of areas to help local government units, interest groups and landowners restore and manage landscapes resulting in cleaner water and long-term ecosystem health. Utilize natural landscape options to create healthy watersheds including normalizing the hydrograph.</li> <li>• Ensure water resource projects conducted within public waters are completed and sustained in accordance with applicable State statutes and rules.</li> </ul> <p>For more information and how to apply visit <a href="http://www.careers.state.mn.us/">http://www.careers.state.mn.us/</a> Posting # 13DNR000803</p>

### SOIL CONSERVATION TECHNICIAN

<b>Department:</b>	Natural Resources Conservation Service, Minnesota Department of Agriculture
<b>Closing Date:</b>	November 18, 2013

<b>Location(s):</b>	Madison, MN; Marshall, MN; Olivia, MN; Rochester, MN
<b>Who May Apply:</b>	All qualified job seekers
<b>Responsibilities:</b>	<p>Key Duties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Makes initial contact with landowners and groups who have indicated an interest in the conservation program or in assistance in complying with the Food Security Act and the Food and Agriculture Commodity Trade Act (FSA/FACTA) and gathers the necessary pertinent data including surveys required in the development of comprehensive land management system plans.</li> <li>• Determines need, feasibility, and probably conservation results of conservation practices in treating various resource needs and recommends alternative practices as well as means by which practices already applied or to be applied can be integrated into systems within the total conservation plan</li> <li>• Delivers completed conservation plants to landowners and explains the plans in detail. Assists with the planning and application of practices in a progressive sequence with land-users. Application involves conducting surveys and investigations, design and plan preparation, and layout and construction inspection of conservation practices.</li> </ul> <p>For more information and how to apply visit <a href="https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/354658100">https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/354658100</a></p>

### MARKETING COORDINATOR

<b>Department:</b>	Minnesota Food Association
<b>Closing Date:</b>	November 29, 2013
<b>Location(s):</b>	St. Croix, MN
<b>Who May Apply:</b>	All qualified job seekers
<b>Responsibilities:</b>	<p>The Marketing Coordinator is a full time position. The main role of the Marketing Coordinator is to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Coordinate the marketing of Big River Farms produce directly to customers through Community Supported Agriculture ( CSA),</li> <li>2. To administer the Big River Farms distribution program including maintaining and acquiring new accounts, receiving and fulfilling orders, and</li> <li>3. To research, recommend and help to build a Twin Cities wide sustainable distribution system which will be appropriate for Big River Farms Training Participants and alumni to use as a market.</li> </ol> <p>For more information and how to apply visit the <a href="#">MEP webpage</a>.</p>

### DEVELOPMENT & COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

<b>Department:</b>	Minnesota Environmental Partnership
<b>Closing Date:</b>	November 30, 2013
<b>Location(s):</b>	St. Paul, MN
<b>Who May Apply:</b>	All qualified job seekers

**Responsibilities:**

MEP is seeking to grow and diversify its team by adding staff to manage MEP's development program and expand its communications work. This person will be crucial in charting MEP's continued success while expanding and engaging our network of members and supporters. Primary responsibilities will be leading all aspects of MEP's development work and working with other staff and consultants to advance engaging communications. This is a great opportunity for the right person to make a real impact on our state's natural resources while enhancing MEP's development and communications programs. MEP is committed to recruiting and retaining a diverse staff. Individuals from all backgrounds are strongly encouraged to apply.

**MAJOR DEVELOPMENT RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Prepare and lead the implementation of annual development plan in conjunction with the Executive Director, key staff and Board of Directors to meet short- and long-term revenue goals;
- Serve as lead staff to MEP Board Development Committee;
- Conduct prospect research on foundations and individual donors and prepare briefing materials;
- Prepare letters-of-inquiry and proposals for submission;
- Create and manage individual donor campaigns and appeals, including bulk mailings and emails
- Work closely with the Executive Director and key volunteers to cultivate and solicit major gifts;
- Track foundation grants, work with program staff to develop and submit required reports;
- Track and update prospects, donors and acknowledgments on database;
- Use database to create reports, analyze results and create mailings;
- Prepare and present summary information on MEP as required;
- Work with volunteers and staff to organize special events; and
- Manage submission of new members, and renewal of current, MEP member organizations.

**MAJOR COMMUNICATIONS RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Maintain and update MEP website;
- Maintain MEP's social media presence;
- Collaborate on polling projects and message development;
- Coordinate annual message training for member organizations;
- Lead development and distribution of press releases and statements;
- Develop presentations as needed;
- Produce communication materials including appeals, brochures, flyers and other materials as needed;
- Supervise communication intern and oversee tasks including distribution of weekly email update and daily News Watch service; and
- Report on development and communications activities to board and others as needed.

For more information and how to apply visit [MEP](#) webpage.



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*"TWENTY YEARS FROM NOW YOU WILL BE MORE DISAPPOINTED BY THE THINGS THAT YOU DIDN'T DO THAN BY THE ONES YOU DID DO, SO THROW OFF THE BOWLINES, SAIL AWAY FROM SAFE HARBOR, CATCH THE TRADE WINDS IN YOUR SAILS. EXPLORE, DREAM, DISCOVER."*

*-MARK TWAIN*

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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.