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## Minnesota River Weekly Update

December 3rd, 2013

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### **Engage youth in climate change solutions through video**

Make a video for [Youth Voices of Change](#)! Youth in grades 4-12 are invited to submit a video (maximum 2 minutes long) that shares solution projects of helps raise awareness about climate change issues for a chance to win great prizes, including: money for their project, new video equipment, and gift certificates to local businesses. Ten lucky finalists and their videos will be featured on the big screen at the Youth Voices Film Festival in the evening of August 22, 2014 on the Sustainability Stage at the Eco Experience at the Minnesota State Fair. Awards will be announced at that time. Read more about how to get involved on the [Youth Voices](#) webpage

This event is in partnership with the MPCA.

For more information email [education@willstegerfoundation.org](mailto:education@willstegerfoundation.org) or call (612) 278-7147

### **2014 Summer Institute for Climate Change and Energy Education**

Integrate STEM content into any subject-area and deepen your ability to teach about energy and climate change with curriculum and experiences from this professional development event. The cost includes two nights lodging, meals, with curriculum and materials galore. Come for the free giveaways, CEUs and optional grad credit, and stay for the inspiring keynotes, guest scientists and campfire conversations with some of the Midwest's best educators. The events takes place August 4-6th, 2013 at the Audubon Center of the North Woods, Sandstone, MN. Cost is \$125. Learn more & register online:

<http://www.willstegerfoundation.org/summer-institute>

For more information email [education@willstegerfoundation.org](mailto:education@willstegerfoundation.org) or call (612) 278-7147

### **Partnerships, cost-sharing are key to agricultural and water quality project**

As the Yellow Medicine River winds its course in southwest Minnesota, descending from the prairie

couteau to the Minnesota River near Granite Falls, it curls around an 80-acre field on the Doug and Lois Albin farm. The low-lying ground adjacent to the river often remained too wet to plant and was susceptible to erosion. Installing sub-surface drain tile would improve chances of getting a crop, but it would also open the door to more nutrients and sediment pollution in the river. In seeking a win-win solution, the Albins opened their land to a major project to install the drain tile, but also reduce pollutants reaching the river. Components of the project include drainage water management, streambank and outlet stabilization, woodchip bioreactors and a more recent tool - [saturated buffers](#). The expense would have exceeded any immediate economic benefit, but with local, federal and state assistance, the project became an example of what can be done when property owners, agencies, and the public work together. The saturated buffer impacts 12 acres at a cost of \$3,600. The bio-filter impacts 22 acres at a cost of \$13,500. All open tile intakes have been removed from the research field. Fertilizer application is calibrated and soil grid-sampled, which improves cost-efficiency and can reduce nitrogen loss.

For more information about the crop land research visit the [Minnesota Corn Grower's Association](#), on the [Discovery Farms webpage of MAWRC](#) and the [Clean Water Research Program](#) of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture

### **Triennial review of water quality standards open for public comment through Jan. 15, 2014**

The MPCA is in the midst of conducting the 2013 Triennial Standards Review (TSR), an every-three-year opportunity for the public to provide comment and opinion on the need for amendments and revisions to rules governing state water quality standards. These rules are found in Minnesota Rules chapters 7050 and 7052. The MPCA seeks comments from all parties with an interest in or information about Minnesota's lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands and groundwater. Comments on any subject matter contained in Minn. R. chs. 7050 and 7052 that should be considered for revision are welcome. In addition, the MPCA requests comments on topics it is considering for future revisions to state water quality standards. Comments must be submitted to the MPCA in writing on or before Jan. 15, 2014, to be considered as part of the 2013 TSR.

For more information visit the [water quality standards](#) webpage.

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## ARTICLES

**[DNR develops video to help anglers identify juvenile Asian carp that infiltrate bait supply](#)**

*AP, Nov. 29, The Republic*

LANSING, Michigan - The Michigan DNR has developed a [video](#) to help anglers identify young Asian carp and prevent them from getting into the Great Lakes.

**[Tech leaders, Economists split over clean energy's prospects](#)** (with audio)

*Richard Harris, Nov. 30, MPR News*

There is a broad scientific consensus that to keep global warming in check, we need to phase out 80% of all oil, coal and natural gas by midcentury.

**[Researchers trace evidence of glaciers across Minnesota landscape](#)**

*Nov. 30, St. Cloud Times*

How one glacier slid across the central Minnesota landscape created by its predecessor without leveling the underlying topography has some researchers studying the 50-mile-long Alexandria Moraine and a similar feature in Brazil.

**[Minnesota bear harvest lowest in at least two decades](#)**

*Dave Orrick, Nov. 30, Pioneer Press*

Minnesota bear hunters registered 1,856 bears killed during the fall hunting season, the lowest number in at least 20 years, according to state records. That's no accident according to the MNDNR.

**[LRT foes tout park tranquility in southwest Minneapolis](#)**

*Pat Doyle, Nov. 30, Star Tribune*

Park Board objects to light-rail bridge over channel near Cedar Lake, although nearby homeowners

**[Agriculture's 'dark side' is highly overstated](#)**

*Mike Fernandez, Dec. 1, Star Tribune*

*Bonnie Blodgett's commentary "Agriculture's deal with the dark side" (Nov. 24) stokes unwarranted fear of "industrial agriculture"*

have access to parkland.

and mischaracterizes Cargill's role in agriculture worldwide.

**FAQ: Everything you need to know about PolyMet**

*Elizabeth Dunbar & Dan Kraker, Dec. 2, MPR News*  
What is PolyMet proposing? How significant are the deposits? How does this proposal compare to the other copper-nickel mines in the U.S.?

**PolyMet copper-nickel mine: Economic opportunity or too environmentally risky?** (with audio)

*Elizabeth Dunbar, Dec. 2, MPR News*  
HOYT LAKES, Minn. - Deep below the Superior National Forest floor, traces of copper locked into the rock are stirring up both dreams and dread. PolyMet Mining is working to persuade state officials that it can unlock those deposits safely, without causing significant harm to a corner of Minnesota known for its water and wilderness.

**Minnesota's 2013 corn crop leads to drying challenges**

*Andrea Johnson, Dec. 2, Minnesota Farm Guide*  
Obtaining adequate supplies of propane for drying 2013 corn was a real challenge for elevators and farms across Minnesota. Much of Minnesota's 1.33 billion bushels of corn needed drying.

**DNR investigates fish kill in lake near St. Paul**

*Dec. 2, MPR News*  
SHOREVIEW, Minn. - Minnesota officials on Monday were trying to determine what killed thousands of fish in Lake Owasso.

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## EVENTS

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**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 it 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.

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#### **Open House Set On Strategy to Reduce Nutrients in Water**

Tuesday, December 3, 2013 @ 3-5 p.m.

**Location:** Kandiyohi County Government Center, Willmar, MN

**Brief Description:** Open house public meetings have been scheduled around the state to review and comment on a proposed statewide strategy for reducing nutrients - phosphorus and nitrogen - escaping into surface and groundwater. A draft strategy is open for public review and comment through Dec. 18 on the [web](#). The statewide plan aims to get various agencies and groups working together to increase current efforts to reduce nutrients in Minnesota waters and those downstream from Minnesota. The kick-off is scheduled for 3-5:30 p.m., Monday, Nov. 18 at the MPCA office in St. Paul, 520 Lafayette Rd. N. Open house meetings are scheduled.

Phosphorus and nitrogen are primary nutrients that in excessive amounts can pollute lakes, streams, wetlands, and groundwater. Excess nutrients make up 18% of Minnesota's water impairments, and the number is expected to grow in coming decade. Surface water leaving Minnesota flows north to Lake Winnipeg,

east to Lake Superior, and south to the Gulf of Mexico. The initial targets are a 35% reduction in phosphorus and 20% reduction in nitrogen by 2025 in the Mississippi River basin, as well as reductions for the Red River/Lake Winnipeg and Lake Superior basins. The ultimate goal is a 45% reduction for the Mississippi River. In addition to the open houses, MPCA staff will be providing information at a variety of association and trade show events in coming months. Minnesota's state-level strategy is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2013. Involvement of interested citizens and organizations is vital. Success depends on actions from many people around the state.

For more information on the strategy development process and opportunities to provide feedback, visit the [Nutrient reduction strategy website](#) or [email](#).

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### **Breakfast and Convening: Finding New Environmentalists in the Good Government Community**

Wednesday, December 4, 2013 @ 8:30 a.m.

**Location:** [The New Louisiana Café](#), Selby & Dale, St. Paul

**Brief Description:** This presentation is intended to give a better idea of how organizations can use new research on government relationships to promote a cleaner government and cleaner environment. The specifics include a new league of Women Voters Minnesota report on the impact of corporate spending in Minnesota, stemming from Citizens United, as well as a discussion of how to reduce the impact of special interests in local government planning. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet with good government groups interested in partnering to make our government cleaner.

We hope you can join us! RSVP to Gwen Myers, League of Women Voters Environmental Lobbyist.

For information contact [Jeremy Schroeder](#), Executive Director of Common Cause Minnesota at (612) 605-7978; or [Sherri Knuth](#), Policy and Outreach Manager, League of Women Voters Minnesota at (651) 224-5445 ext 299.

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### **MPCA Announces 2014 Draft Impaired Waters List**

Thursday, December 5, 2013 @ 10-11 a.m.

**Location:** MPCA Office, 525 Lake Avenue, Duluth, MN

**Brief Description:** The MPCA has announced the [draft 2014 Impaired Waters List](#), which will be open for public comment in January 2014. Ten lakes and 20 stream reaches across Minnesota have been removed from this year's list, an accomplishment which represents monumental work on the part of watershed organization around the state. Some highlights of this year's list include:

- Thirty-two miles of the Mississippi River have been impaired since 2008 because of the presence of certain perfluorochemicals (PFCs) in fish tissue. PFC concentrations have decreased markedly in the impaired sections of the Mississippi, and three out of four sections of the river can now be removed from the Impaired Waters List for this particular problem
- Two sections of the Red River of the North near Fargo-Moorhead, which had been impaired since 1994 because of fecal coliform bacteria, have been removed from the draft list. Working cooperatively, the two cities enhanced their flood mitigation efforts and improved stormwater and wastewater infrastructure to reduce bacteria counts in the river to a safer level. The river now meets state water quality standards for fecal coliform bacteria.
- Nine metro-area lakes have been removed from the list as a result of work to correct their impairments. Howard Lake in Anoka County was restored by removing rough fish such as carp that disturbed the lake bed, and installing barriers to keep them out. These actions improved water quality and allowed rooted vegetation to be re-established in the lake.

A series of public meetings will take place throughout the state in December to present the content of the Impaired Waters List. Individuals who are unable to attend in person can phone in to the meetings in real time.

For more information, visit the Impaired [Waters List](#) website or contact [Miranda Nichols](#) (651) 757-2614.

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### **Documentary Film Series - Strongman**

Thursday, December 5, 2013 @ 7 p.m.

**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, films are screened the first Thursday of every month at 7 p.m., through May. STRONGMAN is a cinema verite documentary about Stanless Steel, The Strongest Man in the World at Bending Steel and Metal. Told with the kind of intimacy that can only be achieved with years of filming, STRONGMAN follows the dreams and heartbreaking humanity of Stanless Steel- the only man alive who can bend a penny with his fingers-as he struggles to gain control of a world that seems constantly out of his grasp. STRONGMAN is a film about faith, about believing in yourself and a film about never giving up. It is a film about weakness and a film about strength. Admission to the film is free for all. The center features a national award-winning exhibit on the Traverse des Sioux Treaty of 1851 and its consequences, as well as local history, and a full-service archive.

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

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#### **Mayo House Candlelight Tours**

Friday, December 6 - Saturday, December 7, 2013 @ 6:30-8:30 p.m.

**Location:** Mayo House Historic Site

**Brief Description:** Visit the May Home decorated for a turn of the century Christmas all enchanting in a soft glow of light. Enjoy special Christmas music in the parlor performed by local, nationally acclaimed Harpist Koleesa Amundson. Children will enjoy a craft table that allows them to make a small gift and ornament from the past. Cookies and cider will be served. Tours will include interpretation of holiday traditions from the 1850's to turn of the century, incorporating traditions both the Mayo and Cosgrove Families would have celebrated while living in the Mayo Home. An admission fee is charged to tour the Mayo Home (\$6 adults, \$5 seniors, \$3 children 6-16.

For more information visit [WW. Mayo House](http://www.mayohouse.com) webpage or call Nicollet County Historical Society(507) 934-2160

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#### **Christmas at the Cox House**

Saturday, December 7 - Sunday, December 8, 2013 @ 1-4 p.m.

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

**Brief Description:** The Nicollet County Historical Society cordially invites you to attend the annual Christmas at the Cox House Open House. Richard Tostenson and the Minnehaha Questers Chapter of St. Peter have transformed the house into a Victorian holiday celebration. Come and enjoy music, refreshments and Victorian Christmas cheer. Christmas at the Cox House is truly a St. Peter tradition. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for 6-17 year olds and free for children under 5, and free for Nicollet County Historical Society members.

For more information contact the society at (507) 934-2160 or email [kristina@nchsmn.org](mailto:kristina@nchsmn.org)

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#### **2013 Wild and Scenic Environmental Film Festival**

Saturday, December 7, 2013 @ 6-8 p.m.

**Location:** Cowles Auditorium, U of M Humphrey Institute

**Brief Description:** Environmental themes resonate throughout this juried, award-winning selection of short films, leaving viewers inspired and motivated to go out and make a difference in their communities. Films include:

*Public Lands, Private Profits: Boom or Bust*

Part of a series produced by the Center of American Progress and the Sierra Club, this installment looks at a fight brewing in a small Utah town over the expansion of a nearby coal mine and its effects on majestic Bryce Canyon National Park.

*Young Voices for the Plant: Kids vs Global Warming*

12 year old Alec Looz has devoted his life to try to stop climate change in his lifetime. He creates the iMatter campaign and a Declaration of Independence

from fossil fuels.

#### *The Story of Change*

The Story of Stuff Project teamed up with Free Range Studios to explain why shopping your values is a great place to start, but a terrible place to stop. Learn about three key ingredients for successful change-making: a big idea, commitment to work together, and citizen action.

[Check out the full program here.](#) The festival is sponsored by Midwest Mountaineering and Patagonia. Purchase tickets at the [Midwest Mountaineering](#) store in Minneapolis, or [buy them online](#) today. The cost is \$10.

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**Dec. 9-Dec. 15**

### **MPCA Announces 2014 Draft Impaired Waters List**

Tuesday, December 10, 2013 @ 9-10 a.m.

**Location:** MPCA Office, 520 Lafayette Road N., St. Paul, MN

**Brief Description:** The MPCA has announced the [draft 2014 Impaired Waters List](#), which be open for public comment in January 2014. Ten lakes and 20 stream reaches across Minnesota have been removed from this year's list, an accomplishment which represents monumental work on the part of watershed organization around the state. Some highlights of this year's list include:

- Thirty-two miles of the Mississippi River have been impaired since 2008 because of the presence of certain perfluorochemicals (PFCs) in fish tissue. PFC concentrations have decreased markedly in the impaired sections of the Mississippi, and three out of four sections of the river can now be removed from the Impaired Waters List for this particular problem
- Two sections of the Red River of the North near Fargo-Moorhead, which had been impaired since 1994 because of fecal coliform bacteria, have been removed from the draft list. Working cooperatively, the two cities enhanced their flood mitigation efforts and improved stormwater and wastewater infrastructure to reduce bacteria counts in the river to a safer level. The river now meets state water quality standards for fecal coliform bacteria.
- Nine metro-area lakes have been removed from the list as a result of work to correct their impairments. Howard Lake in Anoka County was restored by removing rough fish such as carp that disturbed the lake bed, and installing barriers to keep them out. These actions improved water quality and allowed rooted vegetation to be re-established in the lake.

A series of public meetings will take place throughout the state in December to present the content of the Impaired Waters List. Individuals who are unable to attend in person can phone in to the meetings in real time.

For more information, visit the Impaired [Waters List](#) website or contact [Miranda Nichols](#) (651) 757-2614

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### **Open House Set On Strategy to Reduce Nutrients in Water**

Tuesday, December 10, 2013 @ 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

**Location:** MPCA Office, Duluth

**Brief Description:** Open house public meetings have been scheduled around the state to review and comment on a proposed statewide strategy for reducing nutrients - phosphorus and nitrogen - escaping into surface and groundwater. A draft strategy is open for public review and comment through Dec. 18 on the [web](#). The statewide plan aims to get various agencies and groups working together to increase current efforts to reduce nutrients in Minnesota waters and those downstream from Minnesota. The kick-off is scheduled for 3-5:30 p.m., Monday, Nov. 18 at the MPCA office in St. Paul, 520 Lafayette Rd. N. Open house meetings are scheduled.

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a variety of association and trade show events in coming months. Minnesota's state-level strategy is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2013. Involvement of interested citizens and organizations is vital. Success depends on actions from many people around the state.

For more information on the strategy development process and opportunities to provide feedback, visit the [Nutrient reduction strategy website](#) or [email](#).

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### **2013 CPM Short Course and MCPR Trade Show**

Tuesday, December 10 - Thursday, December 12, 2013

**Location:** Minneapolis Convention Center and Minneapolis Hilton Hotel  
**Brief Description:** The Crop Pest Management Short Course and MCPR Trade Show is a one of a kind educational and social gathering of the Minnesota and Upper Midwest crop input industry. Over the three days we offer education programs, training programs, and an industry trade show second to none! Attending this gathering are the key 1200 crop input personnel who are the decision makers, operators, and public policy leaders of the Minnesota and upper Midwest crop input industry. Whether your marketing focus is equipment, the Big Iron of all colors, specialty products, seed, fertilizer, pesticides, herbicides, cutting edge technology, the latest precision ag software and equipment, ag dealer staff and managers, cooperative leaders, ag industry executives, regulators, lawmakers, state and federal ag department staff and leadership, University administrators, faculty and researchers, young and/or seasoned chemical applicators, Technical Service Providers, Certified Crop Advisers, Independent Crop Consultants...you will find exactly what you are looking for at this popular summit of the best and the brightest!

#### Schedule of Programs Offered:

Dec. 10 @ 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Nutrient Management Planning Training  
Dec. 10 @ 1-3:30 p.m. - Nutrients in the Environment and Agricultural Productivity  
Dec. 10 @ 2-3:30 p.m. - Pesticide Applicator and Recertification  
Dec. 10 @ 3-6:30 p.m. - Trade Show  
Dec. 10 @ 5 p.m. - Annual Ice Breaker Reception  
Dec. 11 @ 8:30-11 a.m. - Crop Pest Management Short Course General Session  
Dec. 11 @ 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. - Trade Show  
Dec. 12 @ 9-11 a.m. - Trade Show  
Dec. 11 @ 1-5 p.m. - Crop Pest Management Short Course Concurrent Sessions

For more information on events hosted and how to register visit [MCPR event](#)page.

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### **2013 Nonprofit Advocacy Webinar Series**

Wednesday, December 11, 2013 @ 10-11 a.m.

**Location:** Webinar

**Brief Description:** Join us for this one-hour conversation with an elected official in order to get their best tips on how to communicate with and maintain a working relationship with decision makers at all levels of government. Learn how to be a resource to them in order build long-term trusting relationship toward the common good.

For more information and to RSVP visit the [event page](#).

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### **MPCA Announces 2014 Draft Impaired Waters List**

Wednesday, December 11, 2013 @ 1-2 p.m.

**Location:** MPCA Office, 714 Lake Avenue, Detroit Lakes, MN

**Brief Description:** The MPCA has announced the [draft 2014 Impaired Waters List](#), which be open for public comment in January 2014. Ten lakes and 20 stream reaches across Minnesota have been removed from this year's list, an accomplishment which represents monumental work on the part of watershed organization around the state. Some highlights of this year's list include:

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#### **Telling Your Sustainability Story: Balancing Privacy and Transparency**

Thursday, December 12, 2013 @ 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

**Location:** Aveda Corporation Headquarters, Blaine

**Brief Description:** From new reporting requirements and disclosure laws; to increasing demands from customers, shareholders, and NGOs; to unprecedented levels of information sharing, increased transparency in sustainability communications is becoming the new normal. Join Environmental Initiative for a morning of expert presentations and peer-to-peer learning that will help you consider what to tell, what not to tell, and how to tell it when communicating about your company's environmental practices. We'll hear about emerging trends in sustainability reporting and transparency that will impact businesses of all sizes - including the new [Sustainability Accounting Standard Board \(SASB\)](#), an organization that's creating industry-specific reporting standards for publicly traded companies. Case studies from local business leaders will explore the challenges, risks, and opportunities related to sharing more information, while small group discussions will give you a chance to hear from peers, ask questions, and discover solutions together.

For more information visit the [Environmental Initiative event](#) page.

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#### **Nature's Nook**

Saturday, December 14, 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.

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**Dec. 16 - Dec.  
22**

#### **MPCA Announces 2014 Draft Impaired Waters List**

Wednesday, December 18, 2013 @ 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

**Location:** MPCA Office, 18 Wood Lake Drive SE, Rochester, MN (in conjunction with [BALMM](#) meeting)

**Brief Description:** The MPCA has announced the [draft 2014 Impaired Waters List](#), which be open for public comment in January 2014. Ten lakes and 20 stream reaches across Minnesota have been removed from this year's list, an accomplishment which represents monumental work on the part of watershed organization around the state. Some highlights of this year's list include:

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## JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

### AREA HYDROLOGIST

<b>Department:</b>	Eco & Water Resources Region 4, MN DNR
<b>Closing Date:</b>	December 6, 2013
<b>Location(s):</b>	Windom, MN
<b>Who May Apply:</b>	All qualified job seekers
<b>Responsibilities:</b>	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 the following counties: Pipestone, Murray, Cottonwood, Rock, Nobles and Jackson. This work area encompasses the following watersheds: Upper and Lower Big Sioux River, Rock River, Des Moines River, East Fork Des Moines River and Little Sioux River. This position also completes work assignments that involve state-wide projects and policy.  For more information and how to apply visit <a href="http://www.careers.state.mn.us/">http://www.careers.state.mn.us/</a> Posting #13DNR000829

### HYDROLOGIST 1

<b>Department:</b>	RMA - Solid Waste Permitting, MPCA
<b>Closing Date:</b>	December 6, 2013
<b>Location(s):</b>	St. Paul, MN
<b>Who May Apply:</b>	All qualified job seekers
<b>Responsibilities:</b>	The position provides hydrological evaluation, technical assistance and review of new and existing solid waste disposal facilities. The position conducts hydrological review of groundwater and soil contamination investigations in

order to evaluate or detect potential or actual groundwater contamination problems caused by solid waste facilities and associated activities. The position also performs job duties associated with writing and issuing solid waste permits, including helping to coordinate prompt and efficient processing of permit application review, issuance of permits and preparation of technical documents associated with assigned projects to ensure that each project is completed on schedule.

The position requires 10% travel.

For more information and how to apply visit  
<http://www.careers.state.mn.us/> Posting #13PCA000209

### WATERSHED PROJECT MANAGER

<b>Department:</b>	Southwestern Watershed Unit, MPCA
<b>Closing Date:</b>	December 11, 2013
<b>Location(s):</b>	Mankato, MN
<b>Who May Apply:</b>	All qualified job seekers
<b>Responsibilities:</b>	<p>This position coordinates the work of Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) staff, other state agencies and local government partners in major watershed restoration and protection projects as well as other grant projects.</p> <p>Responsibilities include:            Oversees the completion and integration of assessment, stressor identification, watershed modeling, total maximum daily load calculations, geographic targeting, and conservation practice recommendations into strategies for water quality restoration and protection;            Helps to ensure that the data, information and strategies support county and major watershed plans as well as regulatory and assistance programs carried out by state agencies. In carrying out this work, the project manager develops and oversees work plans, work orders and contracts;            Facilitates communication among, and directs and coordinates the activities of project teams consisting of MPCA and other state agency staff and local government partners.</p> <p>At any given time, the project manager generally coordinates activities for two to three major watersheds involving several governmental units.</p> <p>Travel is up to approximately 10%.</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 #13PCA000216</p>

### INTERDISCIPLINARY: RESEARCH ECOLOGIST/ENTOMOLOGIST/BOTANIST/AGRONOMIST (POSTDOC RESEARCH ASSOCIATE)

<b>Department:</b>	Agricultural Research Service, MDA
<b>Closing Date:</b>	September 30, 2014

<b>Location(s):</b>	Morris, MN
<b>Who May Apply:</b>	All qualified job seekers
<b>Responsibilities:</b>	<p>The incumbent will develop a database and GIS-type model of pollen and nectar production for a wide variety of oilseed and legume crops that are adapted to the Upper Midwest and Northern Great Plains. Methods will include diurnal and seasonal analyses of individual flowers, biotic and abiotic influences on nectar and pollen production, and landscape simulations of daily and seasonal unit-area production given varying acreages of differing crop assemblages. The incumbent will sample plant materials and pollinator populations in field settings. The incumbent will operate agency vehicles as needed to travel to field sites.</p> <p>For more information and how to apply visit  <a href="https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/354271100">https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/354271100</a></p>

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*"FEW THINGS CAN HELP AN INDIVIDUAL MORE THAN TO PLACE RESPONSIBILITY ON HIM,  
AND TO LET HIM KNOW THAT YOU TRUST HIM." -BOOKER T. WASHINGTON*  
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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.