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## Minnesota River Weekly Update

January 14th, 2014

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### **Minnesota River Watershed Alliance to meet in Hutchinson Jan. 21 @ 6-9 p.m.**

The grassroots Minnesota River Watershed Alliance (MinnRivWa) will meet at Ridgewater College in Hutchinson. The meeting begins at 7 p.m., preceded by a potluck meal at 6 p.m. The meeting is free and the public is invited to attend. The Alliance is a network of citizens, public agencies and private organizations that communicate the benefits of an ecologically healthy Minnesota River Watershed and who actively work toward its improvement and protection. The Obama Administration's Department of Interior recently announced that it has discontinued the National Blueways designation program that the Minnesota River was hoping to secure. The role of MinnRivWa will play going forward will be the key topic of discussion for this meeting. The January meeting is the time of year when MinnRivWa has traditionally determined its focus of action for the coming year. The Blueways discontinuation announcement combined with the potential dissolution of the [Minnesota River Board](#) increases the importance of the Alliance's next steps, according to the Alliance organizers and observers of the 25 year old movements to clean up the Minnesota River. The Alliance Steering Committee is presenting the following topics for discussion at the upcoming meeting:

1. A recommendation to keep the term "Minnesota River Blueway" intact as part of the branding and messaging going forward, despite the dissolution of the Federal program
2. A recommendation to continue implementing goals and work plan developed in the [Minnesota River Blueway](#) nomination document as the Alliance focus for 2014 and to empower the MN Blueway Working Team to continue its work
3. To formally request that the DOI and the US FWS continue with work already started to create a regional MOU between federal agencies to work on the goals identified in the Minnesota River

Blueways nomination package

For more information on the movement visit their blog on the [Minnesota River Watershed Alliance](#) website.

#### **Watershed report highlights efforts to reduce pollution**

The MPCA recently released the 2013 Minnesota Watershed Achievements Report, which highlights 19 completed projects, 110 ongoing projects and 16 new projects designed to reduce nonpoint pollution throughout the state. This report celebrates the progress made in reducing nonpoint source pollution (storm sewers, failing septic systems, construction site runoff, agriculture runoff, lawns, etc.) by highlighting newly awarded and active projects underway as well as successes achieved from projects completed each year for both the state Clean Water Partnership and federal Section 319 programs. Over the past 16 years, Minnesotans reported implementing an estimated 7,813 best management practices, resulting in these estimated reductions in nonpoint source pollution:

- Soil loss reduction of 282,984 tons per year
- Sediment reduction of 128,296 tons per year
- Phosphorus reduction of 328, 279 pounds per year
- Nitrogen reduction of 657,102 pounds per year.

For more information about nonpoint pollutions and efforts to reduce it visit the [MPCA website](#).

#### **RFP opens for \$44 million in lottery funding**

The LCCMR recently issued its 2015 Request for Proposals for about \$44 million in grants from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund, which is funded from Minnesota Lottery and Investment income. Proposals are due March 28, 2014. Through this RFP the commission will make recommendations to the 2015 Legislature for funding, with money available to successful applicants on July 1, 2015. The commission has set the following priorities for funding this round:

- Foundational natural resource data and information
- Water resources
- Environmental education
- Aquatic and terrestrial invasive species
- Air quality, climate change, and renewable energy
- Methods to protect, restore, and enhance land, water and habitat
- Land acquisition for habitat and recreation

This RFP is part of an annual process, with the next RFP scheduled for release in January 2015 for funding in 2016. The LCCMR is made up of 17 members: five state senators, five state representatives, five citizens appointed by the governor, one citizen appointed by the Minnesota Senate, and one citizen appointed by the Minnesota House. The functions of the LCCMR is to make funding recommendations to the Legislature for special environment and natural resource projects.

#### **State announces membership of silica sand advisory panel**

MPCA and MN DNR have announced the membership of a new joint advisory panel that will guide the agencies as they consider possible rulemaking for the regulation of silica sand operations in Minnesota. The panel was established to provide input as they implement legislation passed in 2013 calling for rulemaking on silica sand operations. The MEQ Board will also participate in the advisory committee process to receive advice on rules related to silica sand environmental review. The committee will have its first meeting Jan. 29 and continue meeting monthly until new rules or rule revisions are proposed. This process is likely to take at least one year. Meetings of the committee will be public, with some held at the MPCA or MN DNR offices in St. Paul and southeastern Minnesota.

For more information about the state's rulemaking for silica sand visit the [State of Minnesota Silica Sand Information](#) website.

#### **MPCA releases draft report on costs/benefits of recycling beverage containers**

The Minnesota State Legislature has directed the MPCA to produce a report detailing recommendations for a

statewide "recycling refund program" for beverage containers that would achieve an 80% recycling rate. This report is due to Legislature in January 2014. A draft of the cost-benefit analysis report is now located on [MPCA's website](#). The second public meeting to review the cost-benefit analysis for the report will be held on Jan. 14, 2014 from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Minnesota Department of Corrections in St. Paul, MN.

#### **License available for rough fish removal in Martin, Watonwan and Otter Tail counties**

People interested in applying for the commercial fishing license that allows the removal of rough fish from lakes and streams in Martin and Watonwan counties should contact MN DNR by Feb. 7, and Otter Tail county by Jan. 31. An application to transfer the license was filed, triggering the legal requirement that the DNR notify the public of a change in status and accept applications from other qualified individuals who want to apply for the license. Applicants should have experience with seines and hoop nets as well as transporting large quantities of fish. The license holder is considered a commercial operator and is responsible for the marketing and, if necessary, lawful disposal of fish harvested under terms of the license. For more information contact [Neil Vanderbosch](#) at 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155; (651) 259-5178

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## ARTICLES

### **[A green-movement website shakes up the debate over GMOs](#)**

*Dan Charles, Jan. 10, MPR News*

A 26 part series on genetically modified food was not Nathanael Johnson's idea. And he didn't realize it would take six months, either. Last year, Johnson was hired as the new food writer for Grist, a website for environmental news and opinion. Grist's editor, Scott Rosenberg, was waiting with an assignment: Dig into the controversy over GMOs.

### **[We wanted cleaner water. We're paying \\$2 billion. So what are we getting?](#)**

*Doug Belden, Jan. 10, Pioneer Press*

In 2008, Minnesotans raised their own taxes in the midst of a recession. Voters that year approved a 25-year effort to boost the outdoors, recreation and the arts. Chief among the goals of the Legacy Amendment to the state's constitution was a cause central to the identity of the land of 10,000 Lakes – clean water.

### **[When big carnivores go down, even vegetarians take the hit](#)**(with audio)

*Christopher Joyce, Jan. 10, MPR News*

Big, fierce animals – lions and tigers and bears, for example – are relatively scarce in nature. That's normal, because if you have too many, they'll eat themselves out of prey. But top predators are now so rare that many are in danger of disappearing.

### **[U of M makes plans for wilderness research center](#)**

*Steve Karnowski, Jan. 12, MPR News*

It's a well-preserved gem of boreal forest, around 350 acres fronting two lakes on the edge of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. Now the land and its tall pines near Ely are under the control and ownership of the University of Minnesota, which plans to use it for research on climate change's effects on northern forests and for teaching classes.

### **[DNR hears concerns about invasive species](#)**

*Sasha Aslanian, Jan. 12, MPR News*

A Minnesota Department of Natural Resources roundtable this weekend heard warnings about two new invasive species that could make their way to Minnesota through Great Lakes ships.

### **[Ag drainage and environmental concerns](#)**

*Julie Buntjer, Jan. 13, AgWeek*

For years, conservationists in Minnesota have been concerned about agricultural drainage of Minnesota's farmlands. Miles upon miles of underground tile have been installed through private lands as a way to remove excess water and improve crop yields. What benefits the farmers, though, has come at a

### Lab study cuts fracking waste's radioactivity

*Ramit Plushnick-Masti, Jan. 13, abc News*

Researchers believe they have found an unlikely way to decrease the radioactivity of some hydraulic fracturing wastewater: Mix it with the hazardous drainage from mining operations.

cost to the environment, some say.

### Borax agrees to pay \$1.25 million for arsenic contamination in south Minneapolis

*Randy Furst, Jan. 14, Star Tribune*

For decades an arsenic substance spread through south Minneapolis and the EPA and Borax have agreed the company will pay a small portion of the cleanup involving hundreds of contaminated homes.

### Bottle deposit? Better composting? Lawmakers to talk trash today

*Elizabeth Dunbar, Jan. 14, MPR News*

State lawmakers agree we need to recycle more, but how we achieve that goal could turn into a battle at the Capitol this year.

### State agencies develop protection for honey bees

*Jan. 14, Pioneer Press*

Two state agencies in Minnesota are taking steps to protect the beleaguered honey bee population. The MDA will give the legislature a report on Wednesday outlining a plan to study the use of a popular category of insecticides linked to bee deaths.

## EVENTS

**Jan. 13 - Jan. 19**

### **Workshop: Native Plants, Raingardens and Lawn Care for Water Quality**

Monday, January 13, 2014 @ 6-8 p.m.

**Location:** Mississippi Market, 7th Street, St. Paul, MN

**Brief Description:** Whether you're interested in a smaller native planting or want to transform your whole yard into a force for clean water in 2014, this FMR workshop can help you jumpstart your spring planning. We'll also touch on ways to make your yard river-friendly this winter: We will discuss:

- Ways to provide sidewalk traction in winter, possibly eliminating or reducing salt runoff
- What needs to be picked up from yards in winter to reduce pollution
- Landscaping with native plant species
- The proper use of lawn fertilizer
- Backyard composting
- Soil testing
- Creating a rain garden
- Additional innovative approaches to managing stormwater

This is a free workshop. We invite you and your friends to join us in learning how to make your impact on the watershed a positive one! Register and learn more by visiting the [FMR event page](#).

### **GrassWorks Grazing Conference**

Thursday, January 16 - Saturday, January 18, 2014

**Location:** The Patriot Center, Wasau, WI

**Brief Description:** The 22nd Annual GrassWorks Grazing Conference will host a large number of diverse participants, including livestock and field farmers, "buy local" customers, technology and service providers, representatives of government at all levels, researchers and financial institutions. Many of our speakers are working farmers. For the past 22 years, GrassWorks has been a hub of grazing education in the state, coordinating the annual Grazing Conference, serving as a clearinghouse for local grazing networks and publishing resource materials on managed grazing. The organization continues to advance grazing through innovative new projects.

For more information and to register visit [The 22nd Annual GrassWorks Grazing Conference event](#) page.

**Public Meetings on the PolyMet Sulfide Mine Project**  
Thursday, January 16, 2014 @ 5-10 p.m.

**Location:** Duluth Entertainment Convention Center, 350 Harbor Drive, Duluth, MN 55802

**Brief Description:** On Dec. 6, 2013, PolyMet's Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) was released for public scrutiny and comments by State and Federal agencies. Based on reading thousands of pages of PolyMet technical documents, we believe that the proposed sulfide mine, waste rock piles and tailings dump will pollute streams, wetlands, and drinking water for hundreds if not thousands of years. The US EPA gave the previous attempt a failing grade. You can read [PolyMet's Revised Mine Proposals \(SDEIS\)](#) here, including the hundreds of [Reference documents](#) not published with the document itself. This meeting will also serve as the public hearing for the USACE Section 404 Clean Water Act Permit. Read our Talking [Points and Suggestions for Public Comments](#). Open house at 5 p.m. and 6:45-10 p.m. is formal presentation and public comment period.

If you are interested in testifying, please [signup online](#), or contact our Northern Coordinator, Allen Richardson at (218) 428-0290. You can also print and return our [paper signup](#) sheet to organize your friends and neighbors to testify.

For more information on the issues and schedule of hearings visit the [Water Legacy](#) website.

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**Upper Midwest Regional Fruit & Vegetable Growers Conference and Trade Show**  
Friday, January 17 - Saturday, January 18, 2014

**Location:** St. Cloud River's Edge Convention Center, St. Cloud, MN

**Brief Description:** The 2013 Upper Midwest Regional Fruit & Vegetable Growers Conference is sponsored by the Minnesota Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association in cooperation with the University of Minnesota Extension, MDA, and USDA-Risk Management Agency. Sessions include vegetable production, small fruit production, marketing, risk management and much more. The trade show features the latest in equipment, seed, tools and more.

For more information and to register visit the [Upper Midwest Regional Fruit & Vegetable Growers Conference and Trade Show event page](#)

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**Citizen's Frac Sand Summit**  
Saturday, January 18, 2014 @ 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**Location:** Tau Center, Winona

**Brief Description:** At this summit Minnesotans and nature enthusiasts will build their power to keep frac sand mining out of this region and create vibrant, sustainable communities. Topics and workshops include:

- Frac sand mining's impact on farmland
- Frac sand mining's role in extreme energy extraction
- Ensuring that state regulations put public health and well-being before corporate profits
- Understanding the threat to human health from exposure to silica dust
- Using township rights to control frac sand mining
- and more!

Featured speakers include: John Linc Stine, Commissioner of the MPCA; Jennifer Krill, executive director of EarthWorks; Michael McCawley of the School of Public Health Program at the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire. Cost is \$10 and includes lunch of local foods.

For more information and to register visit [LSP Citizen's Frac Sand Summit event page](#).

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**Wild about Wildlife**  
Saturday, January 18, 2014 @ 1-2:20 p.m.

**Location:** Elk's Nature Center at Rasmussen Woods, Mankato

**Brief Description:** Join the Minneopa Area Naturalist Scott Kudelka for an interpretative program on Minnesota wildlife. What is the one candid who climbs trees? Who can swim underwater for 100 feet without taking a breath? How does a

river otter stay warm in the winter? These questions and many more will be answered in the Wild about Wildlife program. Each mammal has adapted to survive in their natural environment and we will look at some of the more interesting characteristics of 14 different mammals including the badger, coyote, and skunk. We will use the furs of the 14 different mammals to show how each one is unique in their own way. There will be a number of hands-on activities including "Guess the Critter."

For more information email [Scott Kudelka](mailto:Scott.Kudelka@mn.gov) or call (507) 384-8890

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**Candlelight Ski, Snowshoe and Walk**  
Saturday, January 18, 2014 @ 5-8 p.m.

**Location:** Minneopa State Park, Mankato, MN  
**Brief Description:** Gather with friends, neighbors, and others to enjoy the natural wonders and beauty of the winter season at the Minneopa Group Campground. Come out to enjoy an ice candle lit trail groomed for both cross-country skis and snowshoes cutting through a floodplain forest. A blazing bonfire along with hot cocoa and cookies will be part of this festive event. The event will take place even if there is no snow on the ground. Co-sponsored by the Friends of Minneopa, this nonprofit, volunteer organization of citizens strive to preserve, manage and promote the resources of this state park.

For more information on the event email [Scott Kudelka](mailto:Scott.Kudelka@mn.gov) or call (507) 384-8890.

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**Jan. 20 - Jan. 26**

**Green Ideas and Ham: Climate Change and Minnesota's Wildlife**  
Tuesday, January 21, 2014 @ 8-9:30 a.m. (doors open at 7:30)

**Location:** Red Stag Supperclub, 509 1st Ave NE, Minneapolis, MN  
**Brief Description:** From moose die-offs to the loss of the conifer forest, global warming will have big impacts on Minnesota's North Woods. Scientists say that if we continue emitting carbon at this rate, the Boundary Waters will turn into an open prairie; moose, lynx and some songbirds will disappear from the state; and northern Minnesota will look more like Kansas and Nebraska by the end of the century. Jason Dinsmore, National Wildlife Federation Regional Representative and wildlife expert, will discuss National Wildlife Federation's recent report entitled "Nowhere to run: Big Game Wildlife in a Warming World," which finds that rising temperatures, deeper droughts and more extreme weather events fueled by global warming are threatening big game wildlife -- including moose, white-tailed deer, and black bears. Join us for Environment Minnesota's Green Ideas & Ham Breakfast forum to discuss how global warming will impact Minnesota's forests, lakes and wildlife and what we can do about it. The event costs \$15 for each attendee.

For more information email [Michelle Hesterberg](mailto:Michelle.Hesterberg@mn.gov) or call (612) 331-3315. To RSVP [click here](#).

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**Public Meetings on the PolyMet Sulfide Mine Project**  
Wednesday, January 22, 2014 @ 5-10 p.m.

**Location:** Mesabi East High School, 601 N 1st St W, Aurora, MN 55705  
**Brief Description:** On Dec. 6, 2013, PolyMet's Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) was released for public scrutiny and comments by State and Federal agencies. Based on reading thousands of pages of PolyMet technical documents, we believe that the proposed sulfide mine, waste rock piles and tailings dump will pollute streams, wetlands, and drinking water for hundreds if not thousands of years. The US EPA gave the previous attempt a failing grade. You can read [PolyMet's Revised Mine Proposals \(SDEIS\)](#) here, including the hundreds of [Reference documents](#) not published with the document itself. This meeting will also serve as the public hearing for the USACE Section 404 Clean Water Act Permit. Read our Talking [Points and Suggestions for Public Comments](#). Open house at 5 p.m. and 6:45-10 p.m. is formal presentation and public comment period.

If you are interested in testifying, please [signup online](#), or contact our Northern Coordinator, Allen Richardson at (218) 428-0290. You can also print and return our [paper signup](#) sheet to organize your friends and neighbors to testify.

For more information on the issues and schedule of hearings visit the [Water Legacy](#)

website.

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**Workshop: Speak Out Against Sulfide Mining Pollution**

Thursday, January 23, 2014 @ 5-9 p.m.

**Location:** LSBE 118, University of Minnesota Duluth

**Brief Description:** Want to learn how to make effective written comments or public testimony on the pollution that PolyMet's proposed open-pit sulfide mine would cause? Join WaterLegacy Advocacy Director and Legal Counsel, Paula Maccabee, for this workshop on how to maximize impact during the 90-day public comment period for PolyMet's 2100+ page environmental Impact Statement. It is crucial for the future of Minnesota's clean water that you attend at least one of the three public forums and voice your concerns to regulators. Written citizen input forums and voice your concerns to regulators. Throughout this period, WaterLegacy will provide information on [Current Actions](#) webpage to help you provide effective comments. Each workshop is free and pizza and refreshments will be served.

For more information visit the [WaterLegacy's](#) website.

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**Native plants, raingardens and lawn care for water quality (+winter tips)**

Thursday, January 23, 2014 @ 6-8 p.m.

**Location:** KK Berge Building, 807 Prentice St, Granite Falls, MN 56241

**Brief Description:** Whether you're interested in a smaller native planting or want to transform your whole yard into a force for clean water in 2014, the Clean Up the River Environment (CURE) sponsored workshop can help you jumpstart your spring planning. We'll also touch on ways to make your yard river-friendlier this winter. Taught by Friends of the Mississippi River Stewardship Coordinator Adam Flett, this presentation receives rave reviews from participants, who also appreciate the high-quality and concise take-home materials. Home lawn and garden practices significantly impact the health of the Minnesota River. In this brief but informative workshop, learn how you can become part of the solution. This workshop takes a how-to approach, suggesting local resources and quickly covering the most relevant information to you can begin taking steps to protect water quality this gardening season. We will discuss:

- ways to provide sidewalk traction in winter, possibly eliminating salt runoff
- what needs to be picked up or cleaned from yards in winter to reduce pollution
- landscaping with native plant species
- the proper use of lawn fertilizer
- rain barrels
- backyard composting
- soil testing
- creating a rain garden
- additional innovative approaches to managing stormwater

Free to CURE members and \$5 for non-members.

For more information contact [Pegor](#) call Dixie at 1(877) 269-2873.

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**Mississippi River Forum**

Friday, January 24, 2014 @ 8-9:30 a.m.

**Location:** City of St. Cloud City Council Chambers, 400 2nd St. S, St. Cloud, MN 56301

**Brief Description:** One of the greatest challenges facing our communities in the future will be how climate change impacts the natural resources on which we all rely. But what, specifically, do scientists think we will see in Minnesota as a result of climate change? How do we anticipate our water resources, and the Mississippi River, may be altered? How we can connect our concern about natural resources to tangible actions that help us avoid the worst impacts of climate change -- and what are the "good news" stories that we can look to as we approach this work? Don't miss this unique opportunity to hear the insights of an internationally-recognized expert on climate issues who lives and works right here on the Mississippi River. Light breakfast provided. Participants may attend via webcast.

For more information and how to register visit the [Mississippi River Forum](#) webpage

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**Workshop: Speak Out Against Sulfide Mining Pollution**

Saturday, January 25, 2014 @ 1-5 p.m.

**Location:** St. Paul, MN (specific detail informations will be given when registered)  
**Brief Description:** Want to learn how to make effective written comments or public testimony on the pollution that PolyMet's proposed open-pit sulfide mine would cause? Join WaterLegacy Advocacy Director and Legal Counsel, Paula Maccabee, for this workshop on how to maximize impact during the 90-day public comment period for PolyMet's 2100+ page environmental Impact Statement. It is crucial for the future of Minnesota's clean water that you attend at least one of the three public forums and voice your concerns to regulators. Written citizen input forums and voice your concerns to regulators. Throughout this period, WaterLegacy will provide information on [Current Actions](#) webpage to help you provide effective comments. Each workshop is free and pizza and refreshments will be served.

For more information visit the [WaterLegacy's](#) website and to register [click here](#).

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#### **Raptors in Minnesota, the Minnesota Raptor Center**

Saturday, January 25, 2014 @ 5:30-7:30 p.m.

**Location:** Springbrook Nature Center, Fridley, MN  
**Brief Description:** Experience the amazing raptors of Minnesota firsthand as the Minnesota Raptor Center shares four of their raptors, including a bald eagle. Expert birders and backyard bird watchers alike will delight in seeing these majestic birds and learning about their natural history. Starting this January, Springbrook will begin a series of programs featuring a lively and educational presentation followed by a casual catered meal. The presentations are geared towards an adult audience interest in nature, environmental issues, conservation and outdoor heritage. The evening presentations will be followed by a meal where attendees can gather with friends, family and others that share their passion for the outdoors.

For more information and to pre-register call the nature center at (763) 572-3588.

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#### **Snowshoe Hike**

Saturday, January 25, 2014 @ 10 a.m.

**Location:** Flandrau State Park, New Ulm, MN  
**Brief Description:** Come out to Flandrau State Park for a Snowshoe Hike at 10 a.m. Join Scott Kudelka, the Minneopa Area Naturalist, to learn about snowshoeing and some practical advice on using snowshoes. We will take an hour and half hike on the park's trails talking about the history of snowshoeing, unique characteristics of Flandrau and animal life in the winter. Please meet at the park's beach house. Snowshoes can be rented at the park office. Please contact them directly at (507) 233-9800. Snowshoeing is probably the most accessible and easiest winter sport. People have been using some form of snowshoes or skis to move across snow-covered landscape for at least 6,000 years. Note that this event may be changed or cancelled due to weather. There is no charge attend this event, but vehicles are required to have a permit (\$5/day or \$25/year) that can be purchased at the park.

For more information call (507) 384-8890.

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**Jan. 27 - Feb. 2**

#### **Public Meetings on the PolyMet Sulfide Mine Project**

Tuesday, January 28, 2014 @ 5-10 p.m.

**Location:** Saint Paul River Centre, 175 West Kellogg Blvd, St. Paul, MN 55102  
**Brief Description:** On Dec. 6, 2013, PolyMet's Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) was released for public scrutiny and comments by State and Federal agencies. Based on reading thousands of pages of PolyMet technical documents, we believe that the proposed sulfide mine, waste rock piles and tailings dump will pollute streams, wetlands, and drinking water for hundreds if not thousands of years. The US EPA gave the previous attempt a failing grade. You can read [PolyMet's Revised Mine Proposals \(SDEIS\)](#) here, including the hundreds of [Reference documents](#) not published with the document itself. This meeting will also serve as the public hearing for the USACE Section 404 Clean Water Act Permit. Read our Talking [Points and Suggestions for Public Comments](#). Open house at 5 p.m. and 6:45-10 p.m. is formal presentation and public comment period. Written citizen input will be accepted until March 14, 2014.



If you are interested in testifying, please [signup online](#), or contact our Northern Coordinator, Allen Richardson at (218) 428-0290. You can also print and return our [paper signup](#) sheet to organize your friends and neighbors to testify.

For more information on the issues and schedule of hearings visit the [Water Legacy](#) website.

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**Fracking: What we know and don't know about its impact on water**

Friday, January 30, 2014 @ 7-9 p.m.

**Location:** Student Center, University of MN, St. Paul Campus

**Brief Description:** The speaker at this presentation is Robert Jackson, a Duke University environmental scientist who led some of the first peer-reviewed research on the hydraulic fracturing for oil and gas and its impact on groundwater. This is sponsored by the Freshwater Society and the University of Minnesota College of Biological Sciences, and it is a FREE and open public lecture. All are invited to come and join the discussion surrounding fracking.

For more information and to register visit [Freshwater Society](#).

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**Feb. 3 - Feb. 9**

**Water Sustainability: Planning for Future Generations**

Wednesday, February 5, 2014 @ 12-2 p.m.

**Location:** Ostrander Auditorium, Minnesota State University, Mankato

**Brief Description:** Dr. Deborah Swackhamer, Professor of Science, Technology, and Public Policy and Co-Director of the Water Resources Center at the University of Minnesota, will give a talk, "Water Sustainability: Planning for Future Generations," at Minnesota State University, Mankato in Ostrander Auditorium in the Centennial Student Union. Dr. Swackhamer is the lead author of the Minnesota Water Sustainability Framework, a first-ever, comprehensive report commissioned by the 2009 Minnesota Legislature and designed to protect and preserve Minnesota lakes, rivers and groundwater for the 21st century and beyond. This event is free and open to the public. Community members who attend can receive a free parking pass for the university pay lot at the talk.

For more information contact [Louis Schwartzkopf](#) or call (507) 387-4811 or [Monika Antonelli](#) or call (507) 389-2507.

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**Water Policy and Management**

Wednesday, February 5, 2014 @ 6:30-8 p.m.

**Location:** Wildwood Branch-Washington County Library, Mahtomedi, MN

**Brief Description:** The trends of consistently lowering lake levels and drawing from river water to aid drought-burdened areas force us Minnesotans to face the troubling issue of where Minnesota's beloved, iconic resource is going and how to maintain it better. Join Izaak Walton League members and concerned residents for a relevant discussion on recently passed water policy legislation, and upcoming water management legislation changes. At this discussion you can learn much about water management and weigh in with your thoughts. This is a free and open event. There will be light refreshments provided.

For more information on the email [John Siekmeier](#).

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**Running on Empty? Managing Minnesota's Water**

Wednesday, February 5, 2014 @ 6:30-8 p.m.

**Location:** Wildwood Branch-Washington County Library, Mahtomedi, MN

**Brief Description:** The trends of consistently lowering lake levels and drawing from river water to aid drought-burdened areas force us Minnesotans to face the troubling issue of where Minnesota's beloved, iconic resource is going and how to maintain it better. Join Izaak Walton League members and concerned residents for a relevant discussion on recently passed water policy legislation, and upcoming water management legislation changes. At this discussion you can learn much about water management and weigh in with your thoughts. This is a free and open event. There will be light refreshments.

For more information contact [John Siekmeier](#).

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## 13th Annual Road Salt Symposium

Thursday, February 6, 2014

**Location:** University of MN Landscape Arboretum, Chaska, MN

**Brief Description:** The 13th Annual Road Salt Symposium will feature information about the current state of chloride in MN waters. Learn about innovative tools and new methods to maintain safe roads while repairing out waters and sustaining our resources. If your transportation department is looking for solutions, your waterways are threatened by chloride, you want to educate your citizens, or you are looking to do your part to protect our waters- you won't want to miss this symposium!

Agenda highlights include:

- Keynote features success stories from a few "teachable moments" from local transportation departments
- Virginia's initiative to recycle salt runoff
- New Hampshire's new liability legislation for certified salt applicators and property owners
- Update on the current state of chloride in Metro area waters
- Super-sized winter maintenance equipment
- New findings on chloride in our groundwater
- 2014 Environmental Leadership Award
- Attendees earn Roach Scholar Credits

Please register by Feb. 1, 2014. Cost for the day is \$125 (\$85 seniors and students) which includes a continental breakfast and buffet lunch. Entrance into the Arboretum is complimentary.

For more information and to register visit the [Annual Road Salt Symposium](#) webpage

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### Historic Building Snowshoe Hike

Saturday, February 8, 2014 @ 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

**Location:** Flandrau State Park, New Ulm, MN

**Brief Description:** Come out to Flandrau State Park for two snowshoe hikes on Feb. 8 at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Join Scott Kudelka, Minneopa Area Naturalist to learn about snowshoeing and some of the historical features found at Flandrau. At 10 a.m. there will be an hour and half hike on the park's trails to talk about the history of snowshoeing, unique characteristics of Flandrau and animal life in winter. At 1 p.m. we will take a snowshoe hike to look at some of the historical features built by the Civilian Conservation Corps and Works Progress Administration in the 1930's during the Great Depression. These two groups are responsible for some of the beautiful and unique buildings found at Flandrau State Park including the Beach House and Caretaker's Residence. Please meet at the park's Beach House. Snowshoes can be rented at the park office. Please contact them directly at (507) 233-8900. There is no charge to attend this event, but vehicles are required to have a permit (\$5/day or \$25/year) which can be purchased at the park.

For more information contact [Scott Kudelka](#) (507) 384-8890

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### Snowshoeing the Gneiss SNA with Don Robertson

Saturday, February 8, 2014 @ 1-3 p.m.

**Location:** Yellow Medicine County Historical Society Museum

**Brief Description:** The Gneiss Outcrops Scientific Natural Area (SNA), formed approximately 3.6 billion years ago, are among the oldest known rock on the earth's surface. This SNA's significance steadily increases as other outcrops along the Minnesota River are exploited for granite mining, housing and recreational use. These pyramid outcrops along the Glacial River Warren Valley rise to about 50 feet above the general levels of the land, revealing parallel bands of gneisses. Granite gneiss is light-colored, pink to red; the less common hornblended-pyroxene gneiss is darker, ranging from gray to black. This afternoon trip is lead by CURE board member Don Robertson. Robertson has lived most of his life in the Minnesota River Valley and is a certified Master Naturalist. Participants will need to register in advance, space is limited. A limited amount of snowshoes are available if you don't have a pair to use. Let us know if you need a pair when registering. The outing is ending weather conditions. Free for CURE members and \$5 for non-members.

For more information contact [Peg](#) or call Dixie 1(877) 269-2873.

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**Feb. 10 - Feb. 16**

**Our water in a Changing World -- Climate Change and the Urban Watershed**  
Wednesday, February 13, 2014 @ 7-8:30 p.m.

**Location:** Science Museum of Minnesota, St. Paul

**Brief Description:** Please join FMR and the Science Museum as Patrick Hamilton, Director of the Global Change Initiatives Program at the Science Museum of Minnesota, and Sarah Hobbie, professor of Ecology, Evolution and Biology at the U of M, discuss the intersection of climate change and local water quality issues. Mr. Hamilton and Prof. Hobbie will present you with a wealth of fascinating information, spanning topics from changes in growing seasons and urban heat islands, to new stormwater management issues and tree species suitable for the future. This event is free, but registration is required.

For more information and a link for registration visit the [Friends of the Mississippi River website](#).

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**Feb. 17 - Feb. 23**

**Conservation Tillage Conference**  
Tuesday, February 18 - Wednesday, February 19, 2014

**Location:** Holiday Inn and Suites, St. Cloud, MN

**Brief Description:** Conservation tillage is the focus of the ninth annual University of Minnesota Extension Conservation Tillage Conference and trade show. This conference emphasizes proven farm experience and applied science. Straight from the trenches, learn how heavier, colder soils aren't necessarily the challenge they're made out to be. And, what have long-time no-tillers and reduced-tillage farmers learned that could spare you the same lessons? Conference highlights include: weed species shifts and control; nutrient management in high-residue systems; strip till strategies straight from veteran farmer practitioners; subsurface drainage options; proven crop strategies for your system to anchor nutrients, manage soil moisture extremes and provide free nitrogen; soil health improvements with reduced till systems; climate trends and soil resiliency; vendor sessions: learn about new equipment, products and technology.

For more information on featured speakers, program agenda and the trade show visit the [9th Annual Conservation Tillage Conference website](#) or email [Jodi DeJong-Hughes](#) or call (320) 815-4112

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**An Evening with Teddy Roosevelt, America's Conservationist President**

Saturday, February 22, 2014 @ 5:30-7:30 p.m.

**Location:** Springbrook Nature Center, Fridley, MN

**Brief Description:** Explore America's outdoor heritage with Adam Lindquist's portrayal of Teddy Roosevelt as he brings to life the origins of the conservation movement in America. During his presidency, Roosevelt created the US Forest Service, established 51 federal bird reservations, 150 national forests, and 5 national forests, protecting nearly 230 million acres of land. Discover the amazing story of how our 26th president came to be known as the "conservationist president," leaving a legacy of environmental protection that remains to this day. Springbrook will begin a series of programs featuring a lively and educational presentation followed by a casual catered meal. The presentations are geared towards an adult audience interest in nature, environmental issues, conservation and outdoor heritage. The evening presentations will be followed by a meal where attendees can gather with friends, family and others that share their passion for the outdoors.

For more information and to pre-register call the nature center at (763) 572-3588.

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**Five Senses Hike**

Sunday, February 22, 2014 @ 7-8 p.m.

**Location:** Minneopa State Park

**Brief Description:** Go stomping through the snow at Minneopa State Park on a Five Senses Snowshoe Hike. We will go for a hike through the woods and along the Minneopa Creek Valley down to the confluence with the Minnesota River using no artificial light source. On the route we will stop a number of times to talk about how we use our five different senses (hearing, taste, sight, touch and smell). We will be out for about an hour and please dress appropriately. Night present a whole new world to most of us. Very few of us spend extended periods of time in the dark and

some people may even become fearful to the night. As humans we are constantly trying to reduce the fun of being outside after dark. Please meet at the group campground area on the campground site of Minneopa State Park. Snow shoes can be rented at the park by calling (507) 389-5464 or stopping at the office.

For more information email [Scott Kudelka](mailto:Scott.Kudelka) or call (507) 384-8890

**Managing the Uncertainty of Specialty Crops**

Sunday, February 23, 2014 @ 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

**Location:** South Central College, North Mankato, MN

**Brief Description:** As with other businesses, fruit and vegetable growers must deal with changing consumer demands and expectations, but fruit and vegetable producers must also work around unpredictable weather conditions, changing insect pests and increased disease pressure. In this workshop led by Thaddeus McCamant, Specialty Crops Instructor with Central Lakes College, growers will learn key decision making components to start or expand their business. Topics included in this day long workshop are:

- Marketing issues: recent changes in consumer demand for direct market fruit and vegetables
- A work calendar for the growing season: Paying attention to every step when growing your crop in order to reach your financial goal
- Investment in equipment: What is the return on investment for different types of equipment?
- How to avoid burnout: Tales from the field

\*Registered farms will received college credit for this workshop

For information and to register visit the [Managing Uncertainty of Specialty Crops events page](#). Other dates are available Feb. 9, 2014 in Brainerd, MN and Feb. 16 in Anoka, MN.

**JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS**

<b>DISTRICT TECHNICIAN</b>	
<b>Department:</b>	Minnehaha Creek Watershed District
<b>Closing Date:</b>	January 2014
<b>Location(s):</b>	Minnetonka, MN
<b>Who May Apply:</b>	All qualified job seekers
<b>Responsibilities:</b>	<p>This position shares responsibilities with the District’s Operation &amp; Maintenance Programs and the District’s Regulatory Program. While the following list shows major job responsibilities, it is not intended to be an inclusive list of all the activities that may be required of this position.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Inspect District facilities and capital projects to identify maintenance needs and perform small scale natural resource restoration and maintenance tasks.</li> <li>2. Assist with project and contract management functions associated with larger scale maintenance related to District projects, District facilities, and public ditches.</li> <li>3. Perform field inspections to assure compliance with District regulations, land covenants and easements.</li> <li>4. Prepare activity reports, coordinate and attend meetings with required Local Government Units.</li> <li>5. Assist in the processing and enforcement of District regulations.</li> </ol>

- 6. Maintain and update Operations & Maintenance and Permit databases.
- 7. Other duties as assigned.

For more information and how to apply visit the [job announcement](#) webpage

### DISTRICT TECHNICIAN

<b>Department:</b>	East Otter Tail Soil and Water Conservation District
<b>Closing Date:</b>	January 17, 2014
<b>Location(s):</b>	Perham, MN
<b>Who May Apply:</b>	All qualified job seekers
<b>Responsibilities:</b>	<p><b>Duties and Responsibilities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assist with the planning and implementing of shoreland best management practices in Otter Tail County.</li> <li>• Provides clients information of programs available to assist with natural resource protection (i.e. USDA-Environmental Quality Incentive Program, BWSR-State Cost Share Program, CRP Buffer Initiative, RIM, WRP, and other programs).</li> <li>• Assists with preparing educational materials, demonstrations, workshops, tours, newsletter articles, press releases in cooperation with University of Minnesota Extension Service, NRCS, Otter Tail County Land and Resource Management Department, and other agencies.</li> <li>• Delivers educational presentations to schools, units of government, and public service groups.</li> <li>• Administers and implement all aspects of the County Ag Inspector Program</li> <li>• Pursues and prepares natural resource protection grants in coordination with the District Manager.</li> <li>• Assists with grant management tracking and reporting in coordination with the District Manager.</li> <li>• Provides technical assistance to landowners regarding the County Shoreland Ordinance requirements.</li> <li>• Fully understands the Federal, State and local laws and statutes in relation to wetland conservation, and assists with the technical aspects of the Wetland Conservation Act and USDA wetland protection provisions.</li> <li>• Is able to supervise district field staff when given project responsibility.</li> <li>• Works with units of government and private industry for planning purposes in land use and water quality.</li> <li>• Assists with surface water quality monitoring and GIS targeting efforts of the EOT SWCD</li> <li>• Represent the East Otter Tail SWCD and Otter Tail County at various watershed organizations and cooperative efforts</li> <li>• Other duties as assigned.</li> </ul> <p>For more information and how to apply visit the <a href="#">job announcement</a> webpage</p>

### AGRIC ADVISOR, AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS

<b>Department:</b>	Minnesota Department of Agriculture
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<b>Closing Date:</b>	January 21, 2014
<b>Location(s):</b>	St. Paul, MN
<b>Who May Apply:</b>	All qualified job seekers
<b>Responsibilities:</b>	<p>This position exists to provide project management to and the cleanup of sites contaminated with agricultural chemicals using the authorities established under state and federal laws. Contaminated sites must be investigated and cleaned up to prevent adverse effects on public health, welfare and the environment.</p> <p>For more information and how to apply visit <a href="http://www.career.state.mn.us">www.career.state.mn.us</a> Posting # 13AGR000126</p>

<b>ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYST 1</b>	
<b>Department:</b>	Minnesota Department of Agriculture
<b>Closing Date:</b>	January 21, 2014
<b>Location(s):</b>	St. Paul, MN
<b>Who May Apply:</b>	All qualified job seekers
<b>Responsibilities:</b>	<p>This position exists in the Chemistry Section of the Laboratory Services Division and will assist laboratory staff in moving towards/maintaining ISO 17025 accreditation for analytical methods that provide information vital to the Pesticide and Fertilizer Management Division (PFMD). ISO 17025 accreditation provides international acceptance of data produced by the section.</p> <p>Duties include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ordering the appropriate supplies necessary for analyses in a timely manner and maintaining records of supplies so data obtained meets ISO 17025 requirements. Assist in proper storage of samples and maintain sample records.</li> <li>● Assisting or performing calibration and/or maintenance of laboratory equipment such as centrifuge, refrigerator, freezer, nitrogen evaporator, rotary evaporator, oven, shaker, pipette, pHmeter, and analytical balance. Maintain records of calibration and/or maintenance.</li> <li>● Assisting staff in documenting all quality control parameters such as spike recoveries, blanks, duplicates and surrogate recoveries.</li> <li>● Assisting staff in conducting initial or annual validation studies for analytical methods used in the chemistry section.</li> </ul> <p>For more information and how to apply visit <a href="http://www.career.state.mn.us">www.career.state.mn.us</a> Posting # 13AGR000126</p>

<b>ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYST 1</b>	
<b>Department:</b>	Minnesota Department of Agriculture
<b>Closing Date:</b>	January 21, 2014
<b>Location(s):</b>	St. Paul, MN
<b>Who May Apply:</b>	All qualified job seekers

<b>Responsibilities:</b>	<p>This position exists in the Chemistry Section of the Laboratory Services Division and will assist laboratory staff in moving towards/maintaining ISO 17025 accreditation for analytical methods that provide information vital to the Pesticide and Fertilizer Management Division (PFMD). ISO 17025 accreditation provides international acceptance of data produced by the section.</p> <p>Duties include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ordering the appropriate supplies necessary for analyses in a timely manner and maintaining records of supplies so data obtained meets ISO 17025 requirements. Assist in proper storage of samples and maintain sample records.</li> <li>• Assisting or performing calibration and/or maintenance of laboratory equipment such as centrifuge, refrigerator, freezer, nitrogen evaporator, rotary evaporator, oven, shaker, pipette, pHmeter, and analytical balance. Maintain records of calibration and/or maintenance.</li> <li>• Assisting staff in documenting all quality control parameters such as spike recoveries, blanks, duplicates and surrogate recoveries.</li> <li>• Assisting staff in conducting initial or annual validation studies for analytical methods used in the chemistry section.</li> </ul> <p>For more information and how to apply visit <a href="http://www.career.state.mn.us">www.career.state.mn.us</a> Posting # 13AGR000130</p>
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<b>MONITORING HYDROLOGIST</b>	
<b>Department:</b>	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
<b>Closing Date:</b>	February 21, 2014
<b>Location(s):</b>	Marshall, MN
<b>Who May Apply:</b>	Only current employees of the agency
<b>Responsibilities:</b>	<p>This position will collect, manage and analyze hydrologic data to support science-based water resources management decision-making.</p> <p>Job duties include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the operation and maintenance of DNR Ecological and Waters Resources stream, lake and ground water data collection programs.</li> <li>• Assist in the organization and management of DNR Ecological and Waters monitoring and geologic mapping data.</li> <li>• Assist with the analysis of surface and ground water data to support sound conclusions and recommendations on water resource management issues.</li> </ul> <p>For more information and how to apply visit <a href="http://www.career.state.mn.us">www.career.state.mn.us</a> Posting # 13DNR000028</p>

<b>ASSISTANT FEEDLOT OFFICER</b>	
<b>Department:</b>	Meeker County
<b>Closing Date:</b>	January 28, 2014
<b>Location(s):</b>	Litchfield, MN

<b>Who May Apply:</b>	All qualified job seekers
<b>Responsibilities:</b>	<p>The Meeker County SWCD Assistant Feedlot Officer is responsible for permitting and administering animal feedlots, manure storage areas and registration programs according to Minnesota Rule Chapter 7020 and the Meeker County Feedlot Ordinance. This position requires employee to work on own initiative and must regularly exercise technical judgment based on familiarity with a wide variety of agricultural problems. Work is performed according to laws and regulations pertaining to the control of agricultural problems. Employee is also required to work cooperatively with office staff and other agencies. Work is performed in an office and out of doors or at various properties throughout Meeker County. Work is occasionally performed under moderately safe and comfortable conditions where exposure to environmental factors such as temperature variations and extremes, odors, insects, toxic agents, noise, vibrations, machinery, wetness, disease and/or dust, may cause some discomfort and where there is a risk of minor injury.</p> <p>Duties include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• working closely with SWCD, NRCS, MPCA, Extension Service and Meeker County Planning and Zoning to develop and disseminate informational and educational materials related to feedlot issues;</li> <li>• prioritizing feedlots for permitting and upgrading; administering MPCA feedlot program;</li> <li>• working closely with farm community and other parties to ensure program fairness and efficiency; attending and holding public information meetings as needed;</li> <li>• resolving feedlot issues of a complex nature.</li> </ul> <p>For more information and how to apply visit <a href="#">Meeker County's job announcement</a> page</p>

<b>WATER QUALITY COORDINATOR</b>	
<b>Department:</b>	Minnesota Department of Agriculture
<b>Closing Date:</b>	February 4, 2014
<b>Location(s):</b>	St. Paul, MN
<b>Who May Apply:</b>	All qualified job seekers
<b>Responsibilities:</b>	<p>This position will be filled as either a Soil Scientist 1 or Soil Scientist 2 based on the qualifications of the selected candidate. If you are interested in and qualify for both positions, please apply to this position and 14AGR000001. This posting may be cancelled if this vacancy is filled at the Soil Scientist 2 level.</p> <p>This position will be responsible for preventing and minimizing degradation of water quality in Minnesota's central sands region through the promotion, evaluation, and as indicated, development of crop nutrient best management practices (BMPs) and Alternative Management Tools (AMTs).</p> <p>This position will also provide educational opportunities and technical assistance to crop producers, agricultural professionals, and local government officials located in areas with known or potential water contamination from nitrates, such</p>



as municipal drinking water source water protection areas, areas of elevated nitrate in private wells, and state groundwater management areas. The scope of the position's work is guided by the Minnesota Nitrogen Fertilizer Management Plan.

A majority of the work focuses on Morrison, Todd and Wadena counties.

For more information and how to apply visit [www.career.state.mn.us](http://www.career.state.mn.us) Posting # 13AGR000002 or #AGR000001

### SUMMER INTERN

<b>Department:</b>	Heron Lake Watershed District
<b>Closing Date:</b>	February 17, 2014
<b>Location(s):</b>	Heron Lake, MN
<b>Who May Apply:</b>	All qualified job seekers
<b>Responsibilities:</b>	<p>This position is that of Summer Intern for the Heron Lake Watershed District (HLWD) and the North Heron Lake Game Producers Association (NHLGPA) in the counties of Nobles, Jackson, Murray, and Cottonwood. It provides assistance in all aspects of water quality improvement efforts outlined in grant work plans in a manner consistent with the intent of the HLWD Overall Plan. The individual holding this position is an employee of HLWD.</p> <p>MAJOR DUTIES:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Monitor water quality at select stream and lake sites.</li><li>2. Contact landowners and conduct best management practices site inspections.</li><li>3. Perform annual artificial nest inspection and survey.</li><li>4. Complete daily journal of activities.</li><li>5. Bi-monthly activity report. Provide newsletter articles as needed.</li><li>6. Develop detailed report of projects and activities completed, with photographs. Computer and writing skills are necessary.</li><li>7. Assist with goose banding in cooperation with Department of Natural Resources staff.</li><li>8. Water level readings – Duck Lake, South Heron Lake, and East and West Graham.</li><li>9. Organize all digital photos by project type.</li><li>10. Assist HLWD staff with rain garden and shoreline project installation.</li><li>11. Assist Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District (O-OWD) staff with water quality and flow monitoring within the O-OWD.</li><li>12. Assist Natural Resources Conservation Service staff with project design and installation.</li><li>13. Attend HLWD and NHLGPA meetings.</li><li>14. Present summary of summer activities at August board meeting.</li><li>15. Complete evaluations: self, program, and personnel.</li><li>16. Answer telephone calls.</li><li>17. Work with the public in a polite and courteous manner.</li><li>18. Other duties as assigned.</li></ol> <p>For a complete job description and application form, please contact <a href="mailto:Jan.Voit@hlwdonline.org">Jan Voit</a> at (507) 793-2462, or visit <a href="http://www.hlwdonline.org">www.hlwdonline.org</a></p>

"WE NEED THE TONIC OF WILDERNESS...AT THE SAME TIME THAT WE ARE EARNEST TO EXPLORE

*AND LEARN THINGS, WE REQUIRE THAT ALL THINGS BE MYSTERIOUS AND UNEXPLORABLE, THAT LAND AND SEA BY INDEFINITELY WILD, UNSURVEYED AND UNFATHOMED BY US BECAUSE UNFATHOMABLE. WE CAN NEVER HAVE ENOUGH OF NATURE."*

*-HENRY DAVID THOREAU*

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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.