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## Minnesota River Weekly Update

January 21st, 2014

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### **Conference on focus on nutrient management efficiency for farmer and environmental benefits**

Farmers and agricultural professionals can learn the importance of the efficient use of applied crop nutrients at the 5th Annual Crop Nutrient Management Conference on Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2014, at the Verizon Wireless Center in Mankato. The conference will examine current nutrient management issues in rapidly changing production environment. Some topics on the program will focus on nitrogen and phosphorus management from commercial fertilizers and animal manures. Speakers will provide an in-depth approach to various management practices of this important nutrient. Sessions will address the implementation of environmental assessment tools. Speakers include area farmers, private consultants, fertilizer industry professionals, faculty of the University of Minnesota, and staff from the MDA and MPCA. The conference is organized by the Minnesota Agricultural Water Resources Center. There is no registration fee for the conference, however, pre-registration is requested. To register, visit the [conference website](#) and follow the links online.

### **MPCA, MDA propose to remove 1 site, add 9 sites to Minnesota Superfund list**

MPCA and MDA propose to add nine contaminated sites to Minnesota's list of state Superfund sites. The sites are located throughout the state. They include the Ace Sign site in Willmar, the Boyer Lumber site in Virginia, the Bulinski Point site near Ely, the Clothing Care Cleaners site in Rochester, the Hoover Dump site near Dundas, the Lakeland Groundwater Contamination site in Washington County, the Merit Enterprises site in Isle, the Precision Plating in Minneapolis, and the former Cedar Service in Bemidji. At the same time the MPCA proposes to take the Bassett Creek/Irving Avenue Dump site in Minneapolis off the state Superfund list because the site no longer poses a threat to human health or the environment under its current use as the city of Minneapolis' vehicle impound lot.

For more information on sites and the Superfund program visit the [MPCA's website](#).

### **MDA report examines ways to support pollinator populations**

A new report from the MDA examines challenges to Minnesota pollinator populations and ways to enhance their habitat. The 2013 legislature directed the MDA to propose ways to create and enhance habitat for insect pollinators (bees, flies, wasps, butterflies, and other insects), and to collaborate with other state agencies in preparing a report on pollinators. Minnesota Agriculture Commissioner Dave Frederickson submitted the report yesterday to state legislative agricultural and natural resources committees. The report outlines a variety of approaches to the creation of a "pollinator bank," and calls for legislative support for a new University of Minnesota academic position to coordinate statewide pollinator protection activities. The report notes that many interacting factors affect pollinator populations including pathogens and parasites, pesticides, poor nutrition due to loss of foraging and nesting habitat, fewer beekeepers, changes in land use, and changes in local weather or climate. The MDA report on pollinators was done in collaboration with the MN DNR, Department of Transportation, and the MPCA. Other collaborators included the University of Minnesota, BWSR, and local representatives of USDA conservation programs.

For more information on the report visit the [MDA's website](#).

### **Minnesota River Watershed Alliance will meet this month in Hutchinson**

The grassroots Minnesota River Watershed Alliance will meet Jan. 21 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 to the public. A key topic will be the role the alliance will play going forward in light of recent decision by the DOI to discontinue its National Blueways designation program. The meeting is an opportunity to discuss the organization's focus of action for the coming year.

For more information visit the [Watershed Alliance website](#).

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## ARTICLES

### **Is Minnesota prepared for a world where water scarcity is widespread?**

*Michael Olson, Jan. 15, MPR News*

Last Thursday an estimated 7,500 gallons of MCMH, "a chemical used to remove impurities from coal, ran into West Virginia's Elk River from a one-inch hole in a tank belonging to a company called Freedom Industries." The chemical spill left the state's water supply nearly unusable for hundreds of thousands of residents.

### **Climate protection may cut world GDP 4% by 2030, UN says**

*Alex Morales, Jan. 16, Bloomberg*

The cost of holding rising temperatures to safe levels may reach 4% of economic output by 2030, according to a draft UN report designed to influence efforts to draft a global-warming treaty.

### **Protecting wild rice in copper-nickel mining**

*Nicole Simms, Jan. 16, Minnesota2020*

It isn't surprising that concerns over wild rice have emerged in relation to PolyMet's proposed open-pit copper-nickel mine in northern Minnesota, which is currently in the late stages of an environmental review.

### **Farm bill could go to House floor Jan. 27**

*Jerry Hagstrom, Jan. 17, AgWeek*

House Agriculture Committee ranking member Collin Peterson, D-Minn., said Jan. 16 he thinks a dairy program that he can accept is being worked out and that it will pave the way for House leadership to bring the farm bill to the floor and be finished before the House goes out of session on Jan. 29 when the Republican members go on their retreat.

### **Composting in Minnesota could heat up under proposed rule change** (with audio)

*Elizabeth Baier, Jan. 17, MPR News*

State regulators have proposed adding a new category to the state's current composting rules to

### **America ought to move forward on biofuels**

*Tim Rudnicki, Jan. 18, Albert Lea Tribune*

Last week, MDA began a tour of ethanol plants in Minnesota to signal its support for the renewable fuel standard. This tour, which ends next week, aims to

include organic material like food and yard debris that is separated from other waste before it reaches a composting facility.

raise awareness about a proposal by the EPA that, if it becomes law, could severely and adversely impact the rural and overall economy in Minnesota.

### [State to delay arrival of Asian carp into Minnesota River](#)

*Pierrot Durand, Jan. 20, French Tribune*

Current legislation in Congress looks promising to delay migration of Asian carp from Mississippi River to the Minnesota River.

### [More cities bring buried streams back to life \(audio\)](#)

*Ann Thompson, Jan. 20, MPR News*

New urban waterways are making a comeback. Cincinnati is following the lead of Seattle, Kalamazoo, Michigan, and other cities by bringing back a buried stream that have been underground for a century. Uncovering these streams have environmental and economic benefits.

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## EVENTS

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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@environmentminnesota.org) 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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### Screening of "Do the Math"

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

**Location:** SSND Conference Center, 170 Good Counsel Drive, Mankato, MN

**Brief Description:** Do the Math is a fast-paced and inspiring movie about solving the climate crisis from the good folks at [350.org](#). We won't solve the climate crisis from our living rooms. Come together with other community members to learn what is happening locally and globally on the climate front. We will be serving locally grown and organic popcorn and butter donated by the St. Peter Food Co-op. View the trailer [here](#).

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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 [Peg](#) or 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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**Green Book Club - *Ecotopia***

Thursday, January 30, 2014 @ 6:30-8 p.m.

**Location:** Center for Earth Spirituality and Rural Ministry, 170 Good Counsel Drive, Mankato, MN

**Brief Description:** *Ecotopia* will delight old fans and new, is perfect for anyone who have ever asked the question, "How can I make a difference?" The setting is the early 21st Century. *Ecotopia*, made up of what was once Northern California, Oregon, and Washington, has been independent for several decades. At last, an official visitor from New York is admitted: Will Weston, top investigative reporter. Like a modern Gulliver, Weston is sometimes horrified, sometimes impressed despite himself, and sometimes touched by the strange practices he encounters--which include ritual war games, collective ownership and operation of farms and factories, and an attention to trees and reforestation which borders on tree-worship. Plan now for next month's book club read *The Power of Just Doing Stuff* by Rob Hopkins, Thursday, Feb. 27.

For more information email [Lisa Coons](#) or call (507) 389-4272

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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](mailto:John.Siekmeier@mn.gov).

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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](mailto:John.Siekmeier@mn.gov).

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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 our 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](http://www.mn.gov/roadsalt) 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](mailto:Scott.Kudelka@mn.gov) (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**

### **Crop Nutrient Management Conference**

Tuesday, February 11, 2014 @ 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

**Location:** Verizon Wireless Center, Mankato, MN

**Brief Description:** Fertilizer and livestock manure are important assets to agricultural production in Minnesota. Managing nutrients efficiently reduces the financial and environmental risks faced by crop producers. At the conference crop producers and ag professionals will hear about the latest nutrient management research and technologies that promote nutrient efficiency and protect water quality. CCA credit will be available. Due to support of financial sponsors, there is no registration fee for this event. Registration is requested, however, for planning purposes.

For more information on sessions and to register visit [Crop Nutrient Management Conference](#) page on MDA's site

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### **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](#) or call (507) 384-8890

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### **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.

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## JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

MONITORING HYDROLOGIST	
<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>

SITE REMEDIATION & REDEVELOP	
<b>Department:</b>	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
<b>Closing Date:</b>	January 27, 2014
<b>Location(s):</b>	Duluth, MN; St. Paul, MN
<b>Who May Apply:</b>	All qualified job seekers
<b>Responsibilities:</b>	<p>This position facilitates investigation and remediation actions using the authority established under state and federal statutes. The position takes enforcement action against responsible parties to ensure polluted sites no longer pose a threat to public health, public welfare, or the environment. The position is also responsible for securing and managing state and federal funds and for documenting their use in order to ensure that funds are available for cleanup activities and that all administrative requirements are properly followed for assigned sites. The position works within the Voluntary Petroleum Investigation and Cleanup Program, Superfund, and the Voluntary Investigation and Cleanup Program.</p> <p>5% travel required.</p> <p>The position will be located in either Duluth or St. Paul, based on candidate location and availability.</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 # 14PCA000003.</p>

WATERSHED/WEST FEEDLOT UNIT	
<b>Department:</b>	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

<b>Closing Date:</b>	January 27, 2014
<b>Location(s):</b>	Marshall, MN; Willmar, MN; Brainerd, MN; Detroit Lakes, MN
<b>Who May Apply:</b>	Only current MPCA employees
<b>Responsibilities:</b>	<p>This position supervises the West Feedlot Unit and coordinates the MPCA's feedlot work for the Southwest, North Central and Northwest Regions of the Watershed Division with offices in Marshall, Willmar, Brainerd and Detroit Lakes.</p> <p>Responsibilities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supervise 11 program staff and lead staff working with counties, citizens, and animal agriculture producers to ensure compliance with the State's feedlot rules and applicable State water quality and air quality rules.</li> <li>• Work with Watershed Unit Supervisors and staff on watershed and basin management activities such as TMDL studies and implementation plans as they relate to animal agriculture and manure management.</li> <li>• Serve as the Leadership representative on the various feedlot program teams (i.e., compliance and enforcement, technical county programs, data management, manure management).</li> <li>• Supervisory functions include hiring; directing work of staff; assigning and reviewing work; performance management; effectively recommending disciplinary actions; addressing grievances and administering applicable labor agreements and plans so staff are treated equitably and unit outcomes are achieved.</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 # 14PCA000008.</p>

### ASSISTANT FEEDLOT OFFICER

<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</li> </ul>

- materials related to feedlot issues;
- prioritizing feedlots for permitting and upgrading; administering MPCA feedlot program;
- working closely with farm community and other parties to ensure program fairness and efficiency; attending and holding public information meetings as needed;
- resolving feedlot issues of a complex nature.

For more information and how to apply visit [Meeker County's job announcement](#) page.

### AGRIC SPECIALIST, AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS

<b>Department:</b>	Minnesota Department of Agriculture
<b>Closing Date:</b>	January 31 2014
<b>Location(s):</b>	Slayton, MN
<b>Who May Apply:</b>	All qualified job seekers
<b>Responsibilities:</b>	<p>This position will conduct inspections, perform investigations and initiate appropriate field enforcement actions under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), the Food Quality Protection Act, the Minnesota Pesticide and Fertilizer Control Laws, M.S. 18B, 18C, 18D, 18E and rules promulgated under both federal and state law; provide information and education to regulated clientele and the general public regarding the use, storage, handling, distribution and disposal of agricultural chemicals.</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 # 13AGR000004.</p>

### FARM BILL ASSISTANT TECHNICIAN

<b>Department:</b>	Swift County SWCD
<b>Closing Date:</b>	January 31 2014
<b>Location(s):</b>	Benson, MN
<b>Who May Apply:</b>	All qualified job seekers
<b>Responsibilities:</b>	<p>This position is a 40 hour/week, grant funded position under supervision of the Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Board with input from the District Conservationist through the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). The Technician is primarily responsible for promoting, and assisting landowners with enrollment of land into conservation programs. This would include promoting the enrollment of land into the State and Federal programs, determining eligibility of the land, and working with the Farm Service Agency and NRCS to get contracts drawn up. Some tree and native grass planning and design may be done. Also using GPS equipment. Quarterly reports must be completed for the Board of Water and Soil Resources and Swift SWCD Board of Supervisors. A written detailed report of all contracts and work completed is required each quarter. This position will also work with the existing Working Lands Initiative grant funded projects in the county. Emphasis on promoting watershed areas in the county targeting areas with soil or water erosion problems. This person must be able to work with a minimum of direct supervision. Occasional operation of machinery, experience preferred.</p> <p>For more information and how to apply view the <a href="#">Farm Bill Assistant Technician Job Announcement</a>.</p>

## WATER QUALITY COORDINATOR

<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 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.</p> <p>A majority of the work focuses on Morrison, Todd and Wadena counties.</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 # 13AGR000002 or #AGR000001</p>

## 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> </ol>

10. Assist HLWD staff with rain garden and shoreline project installation.
11. Assist Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District (O-OWD) staff with water quality and flow monitoring within the O-OWD.
12. Assist Natural Resources Conservation Service staff with project design and installation
13. Attend HLWD and NHLGPA meetings.
14. Present summary of summer activities at August board meeting.
15. Complete evaluations: self, program, and personnel.
16. Answer telephone calls.
17. Work with the public in a polite and courteous manner.
18. Other duties as assigned.

For a complete job description and application form, please contact [Jan Voit](#) at (507) 793-2462, or visit [www.hlwdonline.org](http://www.hlwdonline.org)

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*"HERE IS YOUR COUNTRY. CHERISH THESE NATURAL WONDERS, CHERISH THE NATURAL RESOURCES, CHERISH THE HISTORY AND ROMANCE AS A SACRED HERITAGE, FOR YOUR CHILDREN AND YOUR CHILDREN'S CHILDREN. DO NOT LET SELFISH MEN OR GREEDY INTERESTS SKIN YOUR COUNTRY OF ITS BEAUTY, ITS RICHES OR ITS ROMANCE."*

-Theodore Roosevelt

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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.

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