



Minnesota River Weekly Update

January 28th, 2014

PolyMet meeting in St. Paul set for tomorrow

The third and final public meeting on PolyMet Mining's proposed copper-nickel mine will be held at Saint Paul River Center on Tuesday, Jan. 28 from 5-10 p.m. These meetings are designed for the public to learn more about the environmental effects of the proposed NorthMet mine project in northeastern Minnesota near Hoyt Lakes and Babbitt. Attendees will also have an opportunity to offer comments regarding the adequacy and completeness of the SDEIS.

Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS). The public meeting will begin with an open house hosted by the DNR, US Army Corps of Engineers and US Forest Service. Fifteen informational stations and representatives from state, federal and cooperating agencies will be available so participants can ask questions and discuss aspects of the SDEIS. Public statements will be heard in Ballroom A and B, during the open house. This portion of the meeting will begin with a formal presentation at 6:45 p.m., followed by public comments, concluding at 10 p.m. All interested parties may also provide written comments by mail, email or via the [DNR's website](#). All written comments become a part of the final EIS record and are public information. Written comments become a part of the final EIS record and are public information. Written comments will be accepted until 4:30 p.m. on March 13. Following the public comment period, the DNR and co-lead agencies will review all comments, respond to substantive comments, adjust the information in the SDEIS if needed and ultimately publish a final EIS for public review. The public can review and comment on the SDEIS through the [DNR website](#).

Minnesota River group moves ahead with "Blueway" initiative despite setback

The Minnesota River Watershed Alliance voted at its quarterly meeting in Hutchinson, Jan. 21, to continue working on the Minnesota River Blueway Initiative, to implement its goals and seek support from federal

agencies. Over the past year the Alliance - an informal, citizen-led network in the Minnesota River Basin - worked to gather widespread support and submitted a nomination to the US DOI, requesting Blueway designation for the Minnesota River watershed. Recently, the DOI decided to terminate the program, primarily due to concerns with the program that arose in the Whitewater River basin in Arkansas, and possible impacts from the federal budget sequestration. There was much discussion at the Jan. 21 meeting about using the "Blueway" name. Among the viewpoints, the term is ambiguous and doesn't clearly and quickly convey its meaning. It may have a negative response from those who may fear it as a means to use public funds to acquire private land. While acknowledging the concerns, it was understood that the name is needed for the time being, and work on branding and marketing will continue. Recommendation from the Blueway working team as adopted by the Alliance:

1. Continue with Blueway initiative
2. Continue to implement goals in the Blueway nomination as the Alliance goals for 2014, and empower the Blueway working team to continue its work
3. Formally request that the DOI and local US FWS to explore options for a regional memorandum of understanding among federal agencies to work on the identified goals.

The next Minnesota River Watershed Alliance meeting is schedule for Tuesday, April 15, at Ridgewater College in Hutchinson. A potluck meal begins at 6 p.m. and the meeting at 7 p.m. All are welcome to attend. For more information on the Blueways initiative visit the [Watershed Alliance Blog Site](#).

Bonanza Valley groundwater open house is Wednesday

The Bonanza Valley Groundwater Management Area Open House is scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 29 from 6-9 p.m., at Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa High School in west-central Minnesota. This open house was originally scheduled for Jan. 22, but was postponed because of cold weather. Those attending the open house will have an opportunity to listen to presentations by DNR staff regarding the statewide Groundwater Management Program Draft Strategic Plan and the Bonanza Valley Groundwater Management project. DNR staff, along with representatives from other state agencies involved in groundwater management, will provide resource information and maps and be available to answer questions. Groundwater is vital to Minnesota's economy and future prosperity. Minnesotans use groundwater resources to meet domestic, industrial, agricultural, private and public water supply needs. Groundwater resources and use are not uniformly distributed across the state, and in some areas groundwater is at risk of overuse and contamination. Minnesota's groundwater use has increased over the last two decades. These increases may not be sustainable for continued economic growth. The DNR is establishing three groundwater management areas around the state to help communities and individuals in these areas better understand groundwater resources and plan for their future development.

For more information on the DNR Groundwater Management Program Draft Strategic Plan visit [MN DNR's site](#).

ARTICLES

[Scott County Board puts Jordan gravel mining project on hold](#)

David Peterson, Jan. 21, Star Tribune

Opponents may succeed in blocking plans for a proposed mining operation on the edge of Jordan after a yearslong battle. The Scott County Board on Tuesday put a hold on the project amid concern over groundwater contamination, and county staffers wondered aloud whether the measures required to prevent pollution would be too expensive to be feasible.

[PolyMet critics say environmental review flawed](#)

Steve Karnowski, Jan. 23, Pioneer Press

Opponents of the proposed PolyMet copper-nickel mine in northeastern Minnesota charged Thursday new data show that the state's new draft environmental review for the project underestimates how much contaminated water could flow from the mine, raising serious questions about the long-term costs of treating it.

Drinking water not tested for tens of thousands of chemicals (with audio)

Elizabeth Shogren, Jan. 24, MPR News

The fact that a second contaminant in West Virginia's drinking water eluded detection for nearly two weeks – despite intense water testing of the water – reveals an important truth about how companies test drinking water: In most cases, they only find the contaminants they're looking for.

Trash talk: Minnesota can do more recycling

Jan. 24, Star Tribune

Let's talk trash. Minnesotans put too much of it in landfills and incinerators, studies show. There's ample opportunity to put garbage to better use, yielding more jobs, more desirable raw material for manufacturers and lower greenhouse-gas emissions.

Climate change conference comes to Minn.

Liala Helal, Jan. 25, MPR News

A conference this weekend in St. Paul aims to educate Minnesotans on the local impact of climate change. The non-partisan group Citizens Climate Lobby, a national non-profit organization that organized the event, supports a carbon fee that would tax imports of carbon-dioxide producing fossil fuels like coal and oil.

Minn. wildlife conference to focus on lead tackle

Jan. 26, Winona Daily News

Minnesota's campaign to reduce lead in fishing tackle has stagnated in recent years, but the issue will be resurrected next month at the annual meeting of the Minnesota Chapter of the Wildlife Society.

New farm bill readied for final debate

David Rogers, Jan. 26, Politico

After a two-year struggle and more perils than "Downtown Abbey," Congress should finally see a new farm bill this week as House-Senate negotiators worked through the weekend in hopes of filing the legislation by Monday night.

Minnesota to update how it calculates energy costs

Jan. 26, Pioneer Press

State officials plan to update the way they consider environmental and health effects when determining the overall cost of energy production, a move that could help guide decisions ranging from the fate of aging power plants to using cleaner sources of energy.

Minn. soy growers launch ad campaign promoting biodiesel

Jonathan Knutson, Jan. 27, AgWeek

Showing now on TV and computer screens: a new effort by Minnesota soybean growers to promote the use of biodiesel. On Jan. 22 the Minnesota Soybean Research and Promotion council began an advertising campaign that illustrates how soy-based biodiesel improves air quality.

Soil, weedkillers and GMOs: When numbers don't tell the whole story

Dan Charles, Jan. 27, MPR News

I love numbers. A picture may be worth a thousand words, but I think a good bar graph can be worth a thousand pictures. But three times in the past few days, I've come across statistics in reputable-looking publications that made me stop and say, "Huh?"

EVENTS

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.

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

Fracking: What we know and don't know about its impact on water
Thursday, 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](#).

Best Farming Practices and Cool Maps: Erosion and Habitat Management Workshop

Friday, January 31, 2014 @ 1:30-3 p.m.

Location: Houston Nature Center, Houston, MN

Brief Description: The impacts of BMPs on erosion, habitat and water quality will be the focus of this workshop. Everyone is welcome, especially landowners, farmers and farmer consultants. The workshop will use maps, nutrient management plans, and research to illustrate how land use decisions can have a positive impact on the farm and beyond. Presenters include Dawn Bernau, Nutrient Management Specialist for a five-county region in southeast Minnesota. Bernau incorporates sensitive features maps into manure and nutrient management plans and she will discuss these planning tools and how they can save farmers money while benefiting their land. Also presenting is Toby Dogwiler, director of the Southeast Minnesota Water Resource Center. The Center uses high-resolution maps to help landowners make prudent conservation and farming decisions.

For more information contact LSP's [Caroline van Schaik](#) or call (507) 523-3366.

Better Together Annual Meeting
Saturday, February 1, 2014 @ 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Location: Conference Center at Good Counsel, 170 Good Counsel Drive

Brief Description: Better Together is an effort to network community groups

working toward sustainability in the Mankato and North Mankato area. Coffee and treats and networking (9:30 a.m.), and presentations by Bill Ward, facilities administrator at Good Counsel, and Dan Conner, Local 350.org member (10:30 a.m.), followed by discussions on the future of Better Together. Anyone interested in helping develop a sustainability network in the greater Mankato area is welcome.

For more information on the event email [Paul Renshaw](mailto:Paul.Renshaw@mn.gov).

Feb. 3 - Feb. 9

2014 Third Crop Producer Meetings, Marketing
Monday, February 3, 2014 @ 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Location: Knights of Columbus Hall, 920 E. 10th St., Fairmont, MN

Brief Description:

Agenda:

10:00 a.m. - Hazelnut Update (Jeff Jensen, Trees Forever)

11:00 a.m. - FEAST - MN's First Local Foods Show (Jan Joannides, Renewing the Countryside)

12:00 p.m. - Lunch

1:00 p.m. - MVAC Food Hub - Building a Local Food System (Jim Gehrke, MN Valley Action Council)

1:30 p.m. - Elderberry Production in MN (Christopher Patton, MN Elderberry Cooperative)

2:30 p.m. - High Tunnel Business Plans & Enterprise Budgets (Karl Ford, UMN)

It is our hope that the topics and speakers of the 2014 Third Crop Producer Meetings will increase your interest and knowledge of third crops. We hope you will be able to join us for at least one of the four meetings. As always, if you need information regarding third crop production or market opportunities, please contact our office at (507) 238-5449.

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](mailto:Louis.Schwartzkopf@mn.gov) or call (507) 387-4811 or [Monika Antonelli](mailto:Monika.Antonelli@mn.gov) or call (507) 389-2507.

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).

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](#).

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

Documentary Film Series - Jiro Dreams of Sushi Thursday, February 6, 2014 @ 7 p.m.

Location: Treaty Site History Center
Brief Description: Please join us for the 2013-14 documentary film series. A partnership between St Peter Community and Family Education and the Nicollet County Historical Society, films are screened the first Thursday of every month at 7p.m. at the Treaty Site History Center, through May. JIRO DREAMS OF SUSHI is the story of 85-year old Jiro Ono, considered by many to be the world's greatest sushi chef. He is the proprietor of Sukiyaabashi Jiro, a 10-seat, sushi-only restaurant inauspiciously located in a Tokyo subway station. Despite its humble appearances, it is the first restaurant of its kind to be awarded a prestigious three-star Michelin Guide rating, and sushi lovers from around the globe make repeated pilgrimage, calling months in advance and shelling out top dollar for a coveted seat at Jiro's sushi bar. Admission to the film series is free for all.

For more information on the event contact the NCHS at (507) 934-2160 or email museum@nchsmn.org.

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

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 hornblende-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.

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

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](#).

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](mailto:Jodi.DeJong-Hughes) or call (320) 815-4112

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.

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

AGRIC SPECIALIST, AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS	
Department:	Minnesota Department of Agriculture
Closing Date:	January 31, 2014
Location(s):	Slayton, MN
Who May Apply:	All qualified job seekers
Responsibilities:	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. For more information and how to apply visit www.career.state.mn.us Posting # 13AGR000004.

FARM BILL ASSISTANT TECHNICIAN	
Department:	Swift County SWCD
Closing Date:	January 31, 2014
Location(s):	Benson, MN
Who May Apply:	All qualified job seekers
Responsibilities:	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.

For more information and how to apply view the [Farm Bill Assistant Technician Job Announcement](#).

HYDROLOGIST 1

Department:	Site Remediation Unity 2, Minnesota Pollution Control
Closing Date:	February 2, 2014
Location(s):	St. Paul, MN
Who May Apply:	All qualified job seekers
Responsibilities:	<p>This position reviews technical, scientific and risk details of hydrogeologic investigations submitted by voluntary parties that are redeveloping contaminated properties. When a program applicant submits required reporting and documentation this position reviews the technical ground water, surface water, soil, soil gas and risk information in the report; reviews the site history and usage; and makes a technical judgment as to the risks of the site to the environment and to humans. Often the technical data are incomplete or inadequate and this position instructs applicants on what additional hydrogeologic or risk information is required. Through analysis and review of hydrogeologic and other data documenting the environmental contamination at the site this position determines when the risks to human health and the environment have been adequately investigated and mitigated. This position negotiates the technical and regulatory provisions of liability assurances sought by program applicants. This position is also responsible for maintaining complete and accurate records of work products, time spent on projects, and participation in program improvement efforts.</p> <p>For more information and how to apply visit www.career.state.mn.us Posting # 14PCA000007.</p>

WATER QUALITY COORDINATOR

Department:	Minnesota Department of Agriculture
Closing Date:	February 4, 2014
Location(s):	St. Paul, MN
Who May Apply:	All qualified job seekers
Responsibilities:	<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>

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. 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 Posting # 14AGR000002 or #AGR000001

ASSISTANT REGIONAL WILDLIFE MANAGER

Department:	Fish & Wildlife/Region 3, MN DNR
Closing Date:	February 6, 2014
Location(s):	St. Paul, MN
Who May Apply:	All qualified job seekers
Responsibilities:	<p>This position exists to serve and assist the citizens of Minnesota to conserve, manage and use their wildlife, public land and water resources by leading, directing and supervising the wildlife staff and programs in the Central Region (23 County area extending from the North Morrison County line to Iowa along the Mississippi drainage where approximately 70% of the state's 5.3 million residents live). This position will assist the Regional Wildlife Manager with the administration, development, coordination, integration and implementation of Section of Wildlife Programs and policies; directly supervise the Area Wildlife Managers at Little Falls, Sauk Rapids, Cambridge, and the Mille Lacs major unit; supervise the Roving Habitat Crew Leader; supervise the Habitat Contract Administrator; and serve as Acting Regional Wildlife Manager, as assigned.</p> <p>Core Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Supervision: Supervises supervisors, professional, and technical staff in part of the Region, including hiring, performance evaluation, training, work direction, and applying appropriate discipline. ● Administration: Direct, implement, and evaluate budgets and operational plans at the regional level in accordance with departmental, divisional, and regional goals. ● Resource Protection: Direct, administer, and promote the coordination and integration of Wildlife programs for land acquisition and habitat protection for wildlife species. ● Wildlife Habitat Management: Direct and monitor habitat enhancement, reviewing applications/permits, and collaborating on inter-divisional projects, reporting violations, and testifying as an expert at hearings. ● Customer Service: Direct and monitor information efforts by serving as Wildlife Regional representative, accepting and soliciting interviews from the media, responding to public inquiries, monitoring subordinate's public responses, informing local legislators of projects, assisting Regional Manager with public input meetings for season setting, and collaborating on intra/inter-agency projects. Promote and establish community partnerships with citizens, private organizations, and other DNR disciplines to preserve, restore, and manage ecosystems.

For more information and how to apply visit www.career.state.mn.us Posting # 14DNR0000859.

FIELD HYDROGEOLOGIST

Department:	Ecological & Water Resources, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Closing Date:	February 6, 2014
Location(s):	St. Paul, MN
Who May Apply:	Only current MN DNR employees
Responsibilities:	<p>This position exists to assist with hydrogeological investigations to support county geologic atlas development. In particular, this position will carry out or assist with field work in the following areas: water chemistry sampling, geophysics, surveying and ground water level monitoring. This position may also assist other work units or work groups to carry out field work such as well installation and maintenance. This position will process and evaluate the data collected in the field, enter data in appropriate electronic formats, and create reports as directed.</p> <p>For more information and how to apply visit www.career.state.mn.us Posting # 14DNR000060.</p>

MAPPING PROJECT HYDROLOGIST

Department:	Ecological & Water Resources, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Closing Date:	February 6, 2014
Location(s):	St. Paul, MN
Who May Apply:	All qualified job seekers
Responsibilities:	<p>This position exists to provide technical analysis and interpretation of groundwater and geologic data and to prepare maps, map plates, reports, and other materials illustrating hydrogeologic characteristics and geologic sensitivity to pollution.</p> <p>The mapping project hydrologist will design and carry out field data collection activities to characterize the hydrogeology and geologic sensitivity of a project area. The field data collection will include sampling water wells for chemical and isotope analysis, assisting geophysical data collection under the direction of program geophysics staff, and acquiring other field data in support of atlas projects. The hydrologist will research, compile, plot, and analyze data from a variety of sources using appropriate methods, tools, and software and use the data collected and analyzed to develop interpretive maps, map plates, technical reports, and other materials for publication.</p> <p>This position will require significant travel to complete field data collection tasks. Overnight travel of up to four consecutive days extending over several weeks will be required periodically throughout the year. Extended work days and some weekend work may be required.</p> <p>For more information and how to apply visit www.career.state.mn.us Posting # 14DNR000061.</p>

LE SUEUR WATERSHED COORDINATOR

Department:	Blue Earth County SWCD
Closing Date:	February 7, 2014
Location(s):	Mankato, MN
Who May Apply:	All qualified job seekers
Responsibilities:	<p>The LeSueur Watershed Coordinator will work directly with landowners to assist with the coordination and implementation of conservation programs such as Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) and State Cost Share.</p> <p>Coordinate and assist with educational programs and presentations. Assist other staff with the development of grant applications to further facilitate implementation of water quality projects. This position will have a special focus on resource concerns in the LeSueur River Watershed and will handle landowner contacts on a daily basis.</p> <p>For more information and how to apply visit Blue Earth SWCD's website.</p>

SUMMER INTERN

Department:	Heron Lake Watershed District
Closing Date:	February 17, 2014
Location(s):	Heron Lake, MN
Who May Apply:	All qualified job seekers
Responsibilities:	<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">1. Monitor water quality at select stream and lake sites.2. Contact landowners and conduct best management practices site inspections.3. Perform annual artificial nest inspection and survey.4. Complete daily journal of activities.5. Bi-monthly activity report. Provide newsletter articles as needed.6. Develop detailed report of projects and activities completed, with photographs. Computer and writing skills are necessary.7. Assist with goose banding in cooperation with Department of Natural Resources staff.8. Water level readings – Duck Lake, South Heron Lake, and East and West Graham.9. Organize all digital photos by project type.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](mailto:Jan.Voit@dnr.state.mn.us) at (507) 793-2462, or visit www.hlwdonline.org

NR PROGRAM SUPV SR - FISH HATCHERY

Department:	Fish and Wildlife/Central Office, MN DNR
Closing Date:	February 20, 2014
Location(s):	St. Paul, MN
Who May Apply:	All qualified job seekers
Responsibilities:	<p>This position supervises statewide fish hatchery operations as well as directs and manages the statewide hatchery program and special aquaculture projects, including supervision of fish hatchery supervisors.</p> <p>Core Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan and coordinate the operation of hatcheries to achieve production quotas by evaluating existing facilities and production practices, assigning production goals for each hatchery, making adjustments in production as they arise from management, designing and implementing new projects, and evaluating the success of new plans, programs, and projects. • Direct the State's hatchery system to obtain maximum benefits from resources by developing plans and budgets; adjusting production capacities to meet management needs; determining stock requirements for statewide programs; arranging fish/egg transfers and exchanges; developing and implementing special projects; developing disease control policies; and monitoring hatchery programs through reports, meetings, and on site review. Work closely with the management staff to ensure accurate and approved stocking requests are submitted and that the associated databases are kept current. • Administratively supervise a unit/section to ensure the effective allocation of human resources by interviewing, selecting staff affirmatively, assigning, scheduling, directing, evaluating work performance, recommending achievement awards, training new supervisors, and administering necessary disciplinary action on subordinate staff. • Plan for and develop new fish production facilities and improve the state's present system to meet statewide stocking needs by reviewing equipment and facility needs, establishing project priority, designing new facilities, obtaining funding, and overseeing design and construction. • Conduct regularly scheduled work group meetings for hatchery personnel to collaboratively discuss issues, solve problems, disseminate information, and give direction. • Disseminate current information on hatchery techniques and practices so that the hatchery system remains modern and efficient by conferring with other

professionals from other jurisdictions, participating in conferences, reading the scientific literature on hatcheries, and designing training sessions for hatchery employees.

- Provide leadership, encourage creativity and exploration of new methods, encouraging teamwork, encouraging supervisor participation in areas outside normal duties, and keeping supervisors informed about current developments within the Division.
- Disseminate information on fish production practices to the public to enhance understanding of the section's policies and programs by responding to inquiries, giving advice, and making presentations.

For more information and how to apply visit www.career.state.mn.us Posting # 14DNR000045.

"THE EARTH WILL NOT CONTINUE TO OFFER ITS HARVEST, EXCEPT WITH FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP. WE CANNOT SAY WE LOVE THE LAND AND THEN TAKE STEPS TO DESTROY IT FOR USE BY FUTURE GENERATIONS."

- Pope John Paul II

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.