



Big Cobb River, 2007

Minnesota River Weekly Update

March 25th, 2014

Ravine Workshop to be Held in North Mankato April 8

Landowners interested in learning about the latest ravine stabilization techniques are invited to attend a free workshop on April 8, 2014 at the Best Western in North Mankato from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The public is invited to this free, daylong workshop where participants will learn about many diverse ravine restoration approaches from a variety of experts, including Patrick Belmont, Utah State University; Marty Melchior, Interfluve, Inc.; and local SWCD staff and landowners. If you have ever wanted to learn about stabilization best management practices (BMPs) and conceptual designs for stabilizing ravines, this is a great opportunity. Ravines are one of numerous sources of sediment to area rivers. This event is a follow up to the [Minnesota River Valley Ravine Stabilization Charrette](#) in 2011. The event is free and open to anyone interested. Lunch will be provided. The event will fill with the first 150 registrants.

For more information and to register visit the [Ravine Workshop website](#), or contact [Kimberly Musser](#) or [Jessica Nelson](#).

Farmers in southeastern Minnesota invited to unique opportunity involving Minnesota's lakes, rivers and streams

The MDA and the Whitewater River Project invite farmers in the Whitewater River area to two open houses on April 4th and 7th to learn how they can get involved in the Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP). MAWQCP is a voluntary program designed to accelerate adoption of on-farm conservation practices that protect Minnesota's rivers and streams. Producers who implement and maintain approved farm management practices will be certified and in turn assured that their operation will obtain

regulatory certainty for a period of ten years. the Whitewater River area was selected as one of four pilots throughout the state to test and refine the program. This pilot area includes parts of Olmsted, Wabasha, and Winona counties. At the open houses, MDA and Whitewater River Project staff will provide a brief presentation on the program and demonstrate the assessment tool used to evaluate individual operations. A panel discussion will feature local farmers, advisory committee members, and technical staff. Attendees will also have the opportunity to ask questions about the program and receive a free assessment of their farm.

The open house will be held:

Friday, April 4, 1-3 p.m.
St. Charles Community Hall
830 Whitewater Ave.
St. Charles, MN 55972

Monday, April 7, 2014, 6-8 p.m.
Plainview American Legion
215 3rd St. SW
Plainview, MN 55964

No registration is required for the open house. Farmers with questions about the event can contact Sheila Harmes, Whitewater River Project Coordinator (507) 523-2171. For more information on the program visit [MAWQCP's website](#).

The State of Water Conference: Minnesotans Protecting our Lakes and Rivers on May 1-2

Minnesota and water: two words synonymous to Minnesotans. But people are the third critical leg of this triangle. We all depend on --and impact-- water through decisions we make every day. This conference is an opportunity for citizens to come together and learn and share what we know so we can all be better stewards of our water resources.

Who is this conference for? Lake association members, lake and riverfront property owners, local leaders, and all concerned citizens

How will this conference benefit me? Select from over 70 presenters and 35 breakout session topics. Go in-depth with a half-day workshop (4 to choose from). Hear the latest news about water issues from 4 plenary speakers. See new products and services offered by 40+ expected exhibitors. Connect with lake associations, watershed districts, citizen groups, state agencies, non-profit organizations, university, and colleges.

Registration is now open and the number of attendees will be limited, so sign up early! To register or learn more, visit our [Facebook page](#) and the [conference website](#). An article about the conference is available online in the current issue of [From Shore to Shore](#).

For more information contact [Alex Gehrig](#) at the Freshwater Society or call (763) 219-1251.

ARTICLES

[Site that inspired preservation program in Minn., likely to be mined](#)

Tom Cherveney, Mar. 19, Prairie Business

The site that inspired a program to protect rock outcrop areas along the Minnesota River is likely to be mined. The Renville County Planning Commission has unanimously recommended that an interim use permit be granted to Duinick Inc., of Prinsburg, Minn., for hard rock mining on a 39.5-acre site in sections 28 and 33 of Flora Township along Renville County Road 15.

[Cool weather does not mean strong ice](#)

MnDNR, Mar. 20, Brainerd Dispatch

As snow continues to melt, the MnDNR reminds winter recreationists that ice in the Twin Cities metro area is deteriorating rapidly. "While we have had temperatures in the 20's and or 30's that does not mean the ice on a lake, pond or river is safe," said Kara Owens DNR boat and water safety specialist.

Opposition grows as oil pipelines proliferate in northern Minnesota

David Shaffer, Mar. 24, The Free Press
Leon Rogers has lived next to crude oil pipelines for years. He's had enough. With four pipelines already buried beneath his farmland and a fifth one planned next to his house, Rogers and many of his neighbors are no longer ambivalent about the river of oil flowing through this region of forests, lakes and rivers.

First look at proposed site restoration at water plant

Scott Tedrick, Mar. 24, Granite Falls News
On Monday Granite Falls City Council members got their first look at what the site restoration of the former water plant may look like following the structure's demolition.

Sierra Club threatens to sue Minnesota Power

Mar. 24, MPR News
The Sierra Club has filed an intent-to-sue notice against Minnesota Power, alleging violations of soot standards at three coal-fired power plants in northeastern Minnesota.

Bald eagles on spring migration back to Minnesota

Mar. 25, abcNews
The MnDNR says Bald Eagles will be migrating back to Minnesota over the next few weeks. DNR officials say large numbers of the majestic birds may be seen across parts of the state.

Food giants want 'sustainable' beef. But what does that mean?

Dan Charles, Mar. 25, MPR News
McDonald's made a big green splash a few months ago by announcing that it will start buying 'verified sustainable' beef in 2016.

In ranchers vs. weeds, climate change gives weeds an edge

Luke Runyon, Mar. 25, MPR News
Most climate models paint a bleak picture of the Great Plains a century from now as a hot region besieged by heavy rainstorms and flooding. And new studies suggest that climate change may bring farmers another headache: more invasive plants.

EVENTS

**March 24 -
March 30**

Le Sueur River Watershed Network Community Potluck & Meeting

Monday, March 24, 2014 @ 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Location: Waldorf Community Center, Waldorf, MN

Brief Description: The [Le Sueur River Watershed Network](#) is sponsoring a potluck followed by a meeting to discuss the future of the watershed group on March 24, 2014 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at the Waldorf Community Center in Waldorf, MN. The public is invited to the free event to join the conversation about the newly forming Le Sueur River watershed group and to share a meal with watershed neighbors. There will be free pork sandwiches from Waldorf's Dave's Grocery, and pie from the Amboy Cottage Café. Participants are asked to bring a side dish to share. The meeting will start off with the potluck and lead into presentations by Lynn Kolze, MPCA Civic Engagement Coordinator, and Patrick Moore, watershed groups consultant and river enthusiast. The speakers will tell stories about other effective watershed groups in southern Minnesota and share ideas for creating change at the watershed-scale. Participants will have a chance to discuss the type of watershed group they would like to create in the Le Sueur River Watershed.

For more information on the meeting contact [Kim Musser](#) or [Jessica Nelson](#).

Central Plains Dairy Expo

Tuesday, March 25 - Thursday, March 27, 2014

Location: Sioux Falls, SD

Brief Description: The Central Plains Dairy Association is a non-profit organization

that works to grow the dairy industry in the Central Plains states and the I-29 Corridor through education and communication activities. The membership region currently includes Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota, Minnesota, and North Dakota. CPDA members receive E-news, an email newsletter. They also receive company listings in the Central Plains Dairy Directory which is a guide to dairy products and services in the five state membership region. This directory is mailed to all dairy producers in the region. The CPDA hosts the Central Plains Dairy Expo, a trade show and conference each March.

For more information on the expo and how to register visit [Central Plains Dairy Expo website](#).

Waseca County Farmer Forum

Wednesday 26, 2014 @ 8:30 a.m. - 2:15 p.m.

Location: FarmAmerica, 7367-360th Avenue, Waseca, MN

Brief Description:

Agenda:

- 8:30 a.m.** Registration and Consultation with Resource Personnel
- 9 a.m.** Welcome, Opening Remarks: Stewardship Opportunities for Southern Minnesota
- 9:30 a.m.** Focus on Feedlots: Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea (PED) and Biosecurity, Beth S. Thompson, JD, DVM, Senior Veterinarian, MN Board of Animal Health; Terry Sistad, Agriculture Advisor, MN Board of Animal Health
- 10:30 a.m.** Farmer-led Watershed Councils - Julia Olmstead, Project Coordinator, University of Wisconsin Extension
- 11:30 a.m.** Integrated Drainage & Wetland Landscape Systems - Challenges & Opportunities - Shawn Richmond, Iowa CREP Program Coordinator
- 12:30 p.m.** Lunch
- 1 p.m.** Ethanol: Prospective on the Industry and its Future Nationally and Here in Waseca County
- 1:45 p.m.** How Organics and Non-GMO Products Contribute to Agriculture in Minnesota - Chad Stannard, SunOpta Grains
- 2:15 p.m.** Closing Comments - Blair Nelson, Waseca County Board Chairman; Mark Leiferman, Waseca County Planning & Zoning

For more information on the presentations and to register for the event visit [Waseca County's](#) website.

Women Caring for the Land

March 27, 2014 @ 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Location: Cabela's, Owatonna, MN

Brief Description: Women, Food, and Agriculture Network (WFAN) and Renewing the Countryside are presenting a workshop for conservation and agriculture professionals that will provide tools and resources for women and farmland owners. At the training, the group will spend an informative and entertaining day discussing WFAN's rationale, method, tools and results, including some of the activities developed to help women non-operator landowners understand core soil and water conservation concepts.

For more information on the presenters visit the [event website](#), and to RSVP [email](#) or call (612) 251-7304.

Annual Chippewa River Watershed Project

Thursday, March 27, 2014 @ 5 p.m.

Location: Starbuck Community Center,

Brief Description: Soil health will be the focus of the annual meeting with guest speaker Don Reicosky, who will be talking about the importance of soil health. He is a retired soil scientist for the USDA-ARS, North Central Soil Conservation Research Laboratory, Morris, and adjunct professor in the Soil Science Department, University of Minnesota, St. Paul. His early research involved describing crop response and water use on conventional till and no-till systems

with and without irrigation. Later research focused on tillage and residue management as related to global change issues.

For more information and to RSVP contact [Jennifer Hoffman](#) (320) 269-2139 X 120

Workshop explores raising goats for meat production

Saturday, March 29, 2014 @ 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Location: Clear Lake Town Hall, 8580 Main Ave., Clear Lake, MN 55319

Brief Description: Minnesota farmers are expressing more interest in raising goats for meat production. The MDA and University of Minnesota Extension are teaming up to host a workshop with the Minnesota Meat Goat Producers and answer questions about this trend. MDA staff will guide attendees through processing and slaughtering regulations both on and off the farm. A panel of goat producers will also be sharing their experiences with meat goat farming and marketing. Opportunities will be available to speak with buyers, learn about the market and discuss feeding strategies. A veterinarian will also cover kidding and other health topics unique to goats.

Registration is \$10 per person or \$20 per farm with lunch included and cash or checks are accepted at the door. Please register by March 20 for the workshop by emailing [Kelly Anderson](#) or call (320) 808-4424.

For more information on the event visit the [Minnesota Meat Goat Producer's](#) website.

Maple Syrup Day & Pancake Brunch

Saturday, March 29, 2014 @ 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Location: Audubon Center of the North Woods, 54165 Audubon Dr., Sandstone, MN 55072

Brief Description: Winter will give way to spring before we know it and then the sap will be flowing in the maple trees. That's maple syrup time at the Audubon Center! Come join us for a pancake brunch and hands-on maple syruping program. You will learn which trees in the woods are maple trees, and the history and process of making maple syrup. Then, help us tap some maple trees, collect and haul sap, and observe the sap being processed in to liquid gold maple syrup. Brunch will be served from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and programs/syruping stations will be open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. That way you are free to enjoy brunch before or after you your syruping activities - just indicate your meal time when making your reservations. Cost for brunch and program is \$15/adult, \$10/child (5-12 years), if you just want to come for the program then it is \$5/person. Group discounts are available for 12+ groups.

For more information and to register email the [Center](#) or call (320) 245-2648

Maple Syrup Making in Camden's Sugar Bush

Saturday, March 29, 2014 @ 1-3 p.m.

Location: Camden State Park

Brief Description: Learn all the tools and steps involved in making maple syrup from the tree to tasting! The cool valley of the Redwood River has protected a unique maple tree population from hotter, drier prairies surrounding the park. Learn how this special resource gives us the gift of maple syrup with a little know and simple tools.

For more information email or call [David Drefolge](#) (507) 865-4530.

Owls of Minnesota

Saturday, March 29, 2014 @ 2 p.m.

Location: Fort Ridgely State Park, 72158 County Road, Fairfax, MN 55332

Brief Description: Owls are fascinating birds. What other bird can rotate its head

almost 270 degrees or have the ability to fly practically silent? Did you know that the right ear of the Bared Owl is higher than the left one? Owls come in all different shapes and sizes. Come out to Fort Ridgely State Park for a presentation about some of the unique characteristics of owls and 12 different ones that can be found in Minnesota including that Great Horned Owl, Bared Owl and Eastern Screech Owl. The presentation will be held at the park's Chalet and co-sponsored by the Nicollet County Historical Society.

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

Moths and Butterflies of Minnesota
Saturday, March 29, 2014 @ 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Location: Springbrook Nature Center, 100 85th Ave NW, Fridley, MN 55432
Brief Description: Discover the amazing lives of moths and butterflies with Dr. Bruce "the Bug Guy" Giebink. Dr. Giebink received his doctorate in Entomology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Prior to founding "The Bug Zone, LLC" in 2000, he coordinated pest management and water quality programs as an Assistant Professor at the University of MN. Dr. Giebink has published various scientific and popular publications on insects, has helped train teachers to teach insect curricula, and is an energetic speaker on many insect-related topics. Tickets are \$25. 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 interested 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.

Maple Syruping in your Backyard
Saturday, March 29, 2014 @ 1-2:30 p.m.
Sunday, March 30, 2014 @ 1-2:30 p.m.

Location: Fort Snelling State Park
Brief Description: Join us for our annual Maple Syruping in your Backyard workshop. Learn about the natural history of maple trees and the history of making maple syrup. Find out what equipment is required, how to tap trees, how to process sap into syrup! Program starts at the Thomas Savage Visitor Center.

For more information call (612) 729-3550 or call the Visitor Center (612) 725-2724.

Domestic Oil Production in the Bakken: The Cost of Our Gasoline
Sunday, March 30, 2014 @ 2-4 p.m.

Location: Bush Lake Izaak Walton League Chapter House, Bloomington, MN
Brief Description: Learn about the impact of oil development on the natural resources, infrastructure and social environment of Western North Dakota, which is developing over 45,000 wells in the area of Theodore Roosevelt National Park and the North Dakota Badlands. The presentation is by Barry Drazkowski, President of the MN Division of the Izaak Walton League and Executive Director of the St. Mary's University Geospatial Center in Winona. It's also Izaak Walton's birthday! Come toast to Izaak Walton! There will be chili, apple cider, and of course, an IKE's birthday cake (candles will be lit at 3:30 p.m.). Bring some food to eat and a dish to share.

For more information and to RSVP contact [John Crampton](#) (612) 396-6010 by March 28.

**March 31 -
April 6**

Networking in the Environmental Field
Wednesday, April 2, 2014 @ 6-9 p.m.

Location: Hamline University, St. Paul, MN
Brief Description: Join the Women's Environmental Network and Hamline University for our popular networking only event! Co-hosted by the Hamline University's Center for Global Environmental Education. Meet one-on-one with

our event sponsors as well as representatives from a variety of organizations. Find out what it takes to perform their job and what courses in college helped them. Learn about environmental job opportunities in a variety of business sectors. Bring your resume. Career professionals will be available to assist you with ideas. Talk to others who have found jobs in the environmental field. Add these people to your network. The regular rate is \$20, the student rate is \$10.

For more information visit the [Women's Environmental Network](#) webpage and to [register click here](#).

Rally Against Tar Sands & March to a Public Hearing

Thursday, April 3, 2014 @ 1:30 p.m. hearing - 3 p.m.

Location: Rally begins at Kellogg Park--Kellogg & Robert--and march ends at the Public Utilities Commission--121 E 7th Pl.

Brief Description: Canadian pipeline company Enbridge wants to expand the capacity of the Alberta Clipper pipeline, which carries tar sands crude from Alberta to Superior across much of northern MN. Tar sands are one of our dirtiest sources of fuel. Pipeline expansion would enable even more tar sands development in Alberta and increase the flow of this toxic product across the Great Lakes region. Join MN350 in standing up to protect the region from this tar sands project. Rally together and march to the final public hearing on the Alberta Clipper expansion at the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. This is a huge change to [make your voice heard](#).

[Join MN350 to stand up](#) against expanding the Alberta Clipper pipeline.

Documentary Film Series - A Good Day to Die

Thursday, April 3, 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 7 p.m., at the Treaty Site History Center, through May. In 1968, Banks, co-founded the American Indian Movement (AIM) to call attention to the plight of urban Indians in Minneapolis, Minnesota. *A Good Day to Die* is a 90 min film presenting an intimate look at Dennis Bank's life beginning with his early experience in boarding schools, through his military service in Japan, his transformative experience in Stillwater State Prison and subsequent founding of a movement that, through confrontational actions in Washington D.C., Custer South Dakota and Wounded Knee, changed the lives of American Indians forever. Admission to the film series is free for all.

For more information on the event contact the [Nicollet County Historical Society](#) (507) 934-2160.

Food & Farms Weekend

Friday, April 4 - Sunday, April 5, 2014

Location: Audubon Center of the North Woods, 54165 Audubon Dr. Sandstone, MN 55072

Brief Description: Get back to the basics and learn new skills with this all-inclusive weekend focused on the most elemental of our needs and pressures: Food. Come to learn, to taste and to enjoy! Over the weekend, choose from a variety of expert of expert led onsite workshops on gardening, cooking and food preservation, offsite field trips to local farms and meet farmers who are growing produce and raising animals naturally and organically, and enjoy renowned evening presenters, Chef Monique Hooker and Chef Lucia Watson. Onsite accommodations are available with delicious homemade meals and access to the Audubon Center's 535 acres and 7+ miles of trails.

Friday, April 4, Agenda

5 p.m. Registration

5:30 p.m. Early Bird Social & Dinner

7 p.m. Featured Speaker: Chef Monique Hooker, renowned chef and author: *Cooking with the seasons*

8:15 p.m. Film Viewing: Fresh

Saturday, April 5, Agenda

6:30 a.m. Nature Walk

7:30 p.m. Breakfast

8:30 - 11:45 a.m. Workshops, classes, and fieldtrips

Noon Lunch

1 p.m. Sustainable Energy Tour of ACNW

2-5:15 p.m. Workshops, classes and fieldtrips

5:30 p.m. Social & Appetizers

6 p.m. Dinner

6:45 p.m. Featured Speaker: Chef Lucia Watson, renowned chef and restaurateur: Savoring the Northern Heartland: Seasonally, Locally and Sustainably

8:15 p.m. Film Viewing: Ingredients

Sunday, April 6, Agenda

6:30 a.m. Nature Walk

7:30 a.m. Breakfast

8:30-11:45 a.m. Workshops, classes, and fieldtrips

Noon Lunch

12:30 p.m. Weekend wrap-up, highlights and departure

For more information and how to register visit the [Audubon Center of the North Woods](#) website.

Bad for Bees

Saturday, April 5, 2014 @ 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Location: Campus Center, Macalester College, St. Paul, MN

Brief Description: Even if you don't use chemicals in your yard to garden, you still could be harming bees, butterflies and other living things. Learn more about the alarming spread of "pre-poisoned" plants in the nursery trade and what you can do to combat this trend. Bee experts and landscapers will discuss how to make sure you have a healthy backyard and how to avoid a class of insecticides call "neonics" at this important workshop. Free and open to the public. Free parking available on campus.

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

Sustainability Expo 2014

Saturday, April 5, 2014 @ 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Location: Centennial Student Union Ballroom, Minnesota State University, Mankato

Brief Description: MSU-M Environmental Committee, Transition Mankato, and the Center for Earth Spirituality and Rural Ministry are co-sponsoring this free, all day event that includes informational tabling, speakers, reskilling workshops, music, vendors, kid friendly activities, and FUN! Exhibitors and presenters are being sought. A link to registration form is available on the website above for organizations and businesses that would like to have a table at the event.

For more information contact [Erica Johnson](#) at (507) 389-5254

April 7 - April 13

Land Stewardship Project's 9th Farm Breakfast & Day at the Capitol

Tuesday, April 8, 2014 @ 7-10:30 a.m.

Location: Christ Lutheran Church, St. Paul, MN

Brief Description: The Land Stewardship Day at the Capitol begins with the best breakfast in town, straight off the farm! Cost for breakfast is \$10. The breakfast features food sustainable grown on the farms of Land Stewardship Project members.

Agenda:

7-9 a.m. Breakfast

9-10:15 a.m. Lobbying training

10:30 a.m. Meet your legislator

You can invite your legislator to meet you for breakfast! Find the contact information for your state Senator at (651) 296-0504 or 1 (888) 234-1112, and for your Representative at (651) 296-2146 or 1 (800) 657-3550. Find them online by clicking [here](#). and if you would like to speak with your legislator during lobbying time, be sure to call now to schedule an appointment for anytime after 10:30 a.m.

Volunteers are needed. We need help with serving food, working the registration table, greeting people as they come in, cleaning up and more. If you can volunteer, contact [Kaitlyn O'Connor](#) at (612) 722-6377. RSVP [using the online form](#).

Ravine Workshop

Tuesday, April 8, 2014 @ 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Location: Best Western Mankato, 1111 Range St., North Mankato, MN 56001

Brief Description: Landowners interested in learning about the latest ravine stabilization techniques are invited to attend a free workshop where participants will learn about many diverse ravine restoration approaches from a variety of experts. If you have ever wanted to learn more about ravine stabilization, this is a great opportunity. Ravines are one of numerous sources of sediment to area rivers. Event organizers were motivated to call attention to ravine stabilization as one of the solutions to reduce erosion and improve water quality. This event is a follow up to the [Minnesota River Valley Ravine Stabilization Charrette](#) held in 2011, where a group of professionals knowledge about ravines reviewed and assessed sites in the Le Sueur and Sand Creek watersheds. The meeting resulted in the identification of BMPs and conceptual designs for stabilizing ravines. The day is sponsored by Fishers and Farmers Partnership for the Upper Mississippi River Basin and coordinated by the Water Resource Center at Minnesota State University, Mankato. The day was planned by a diverse group including: Minnesota Agricultural Water Resources Center (MAWRC), MnDNR, Interfluve, Inc., Blue Earth County SWCD, Scott County SWCD, United Ag Tech, Nettiewyynn Farm, among others. Event fills with the first 150 registrants. Lunch is provided.

For more information and to register visit the [Ravine Workshop](#) website or contact [Kim Musser](#) or [Jessica Nelson](#).

Springbrook Nature Center

Saturday, April 12, 2014 @ 12-4 p.m.

Location: Springbrook Nature Center, 100 85th NW, Fridley, MN

Brief Description: So many activities will be featured including Wakin' up for Spring Nature Trail, Egg Olympics, Spring carnival games, a giant rabbit, cock-a-doodle zoo petting zoo, unlimited turns in the inflatable obstacle courses. 2 concerts with kid power featuring Rachael Kroog, and a self-guided nature hunt. Event fee is \$7 per person.

For more information contact Springbrook Nature Center (763) 572-3588

**April 21 -
April 27**

ACTION: Opportunity: Earth Day MN River Roadside Cleanup

Tuesday, April 22, 2014 @ 5:15 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Location: Chippewa County Park in Wegdahl, MN

Brief Description: Meet at 5:15 p.m. at Chippewa County Park in Wegdahl just off highway 212 between Granite Falls and Montevideo. We will break up into teams and tackle our designated highway area. Dress for the weather. Please wear closed toe shoes and bring some gloves if you have them (we will have safety vests and gloves on hand too). Sign up if you are interested and weather permitting, we will get out and enjoy the evening. If we get enough folks, it should only take an hour to clean up!

For more information contact [Peg 1](#) (877) 269-2873 or visit [CURE's website](#).

JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

NR TECHNICIAN - TRAILS & WATERWAYS

Department	Parks & Trails/Region 3, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Closing Date	March 27, 2014
Location(s)	Lanesboro, MN
Who May Apply	Current MnDNR employees
Responsibilities	<p>This is an unlimited (year round) part-time (90%) working out of the Lanesboro Trails office in Area 3C. During the winter, this position's hours could include nights and weekends, for grooming cross country ski trails. During the rest of the year the position's anticipated schedule is 7:00 AM to 5:30 PM, Tuesday through Thursday and 7:00 AM to 1:30 PM Fridays.</p> <p>This position performs technical field work/provides lead work direction for Area 3D work crews and for Parks & Trails facilities and programs.</p> <p>Areas of responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development, Rehabilitation, Operations and Maintenance Activities: Provide work direction to field staff to implement work plans and provide support to the Area Trails & Waterways Unit Supervisor in Area 3C. Coordinate, direct and schedule equipment, personnel and materials for development and rehabilitation activities. This includes overseeing staff laborers, Greenview and CCM Crews for maintenance projects at all Area 3C facilities. Operate and maintain heavy equipment and vehicles required to develop recreation facilities within the facility. Transport equipment to work sites, as needed. Operate and maintain instruments, power tools and miscellaneous tools. Inspect and report facility maintenance, safety and user concerns and take corrective action as appropriate.• Administration: Schedule personnel, volunteers and contractors to perform specific duties and/or delivery of materials. Monitor and report staff performance to supervisor for employee evaluation. Complete and review equipment logs and maintenance records. Complete and submit periodic and special reports such as boat and water safety accomplishments, progress reports and equipment requests. Review time sheets and expense reports for accuracy. Provide technical assistance and support to program-related organizations and sponsors.• Public Relations: Establish and maintain positive public relations with facility users, the general public, local agencies and units of government, other state agencies and federal agencies by keeping them informed of the Division's program mandates, purposes, goals and objectives and the status of projects within the facility.• Land Management/Acquisition: Research and report on site availability and development potential by doing specific field reviews, site searches, records searches and landowner contacts. Assist with land management activities including easements, leases, boundary issues, etc.• Assure safety and accountability for safety performance to reduce injuries and equipment damage. <p>For more information and how to apply www.careers.state.mn.usposting # 14DNR000168.</p>

WATERSHED PROJECT MANAGER

Department	Watershed/SW Watershed Unit, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Closing Date	March 31, 2014
Location(s)	Marshall, MN
Who May Apply	All qualified job seekers
Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This position coordinates the work of MPCA staff, other state agencies, and local government partners in major watershed restoration and protection projects as well as other grant projects. <p>Responsibilities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oversees the completion and integration of assessment, stressor identification, watershed modeling, total maximum daily load calculations, geographic targeting and conservation practice recommendations into strategies for water quality restoration and protection. • Helps to ensure the data, information and strategies support county and major watershed plans as well as regulatory and assistance programs carried out by state agencies. • Develops and coordinates the activities of project teams • Facilitates communication among and directs and coordinates the activities of project teams consisting of MPCA and other state agency staff and local government partners. <p>Up to 10% travel is required.</p> <p>For more information and how to apply www.careers.state.mn.us/posting/14PCA000038.</p>

ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST	
Department	Upper Sioux Community
Closing Date	April 4, 2014 or until filled
Location(s)	Granite Falls, MN
Who May Apply	All qualified job seekers
Responsibilities	<p>Work to protect and restore the physical, chemical, and biological health of the water systems within and around the Upper Sioux Community. The Environmental Specialist will collect, analyze, and synthesize environmental data to inform decision making. The Environmental Specialist advises the Environmental Director and the Board of Trustees on water related issues affecting the community. This position requires a highly motivated individual with the desire to learn, ask questions, and find solutions to complicated issues.</p> <p>For more information and how to apply view the job announcement.</p>

DISTRICT TECHNICIAN	
Department	Marshall County SWCD
Closing Date	April 4, 2014
Location(s)	Warren, MN

Who May Apply	All qualified job seekers
Responsibilities	<p>ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will perform grant writing duties to seek funding for various programs. • Conducts site investigations and inventories, assisting the public with enrollment into various local, state, and federal conservation programs. • Will assist County Water Planner with various water quality activities. • Will administer Weed Management Program and carry out related duties. • Will assist with various education activities. • Presents information about conservation programs to the public and to school groups, civic groups, and other organizations. • Performs duties of the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) program including, but not limited to, landowner contact and applications, easement acquisition, practice installation and program compliance. • Provides technical assistance for the implementation of the Wetland Conservation Act. • Attends meetings and professionally represents the SWCD at various meetings as directed by the District Manager. • Assists with the District Tree Program and is familiar with tree pests and diseases. • Keeps record of land use activities and maintains landowner records of conservation practices. • Performs other duties of a like or similar nature as assigned. <p>For more information and how to apply check out the job announcement.</p>

SOIL SCIENTIST 1 OR 2	
Department	Pesticide & Fertilizer Management, Minnesota Department of Agriculture
Closing Date	April 14, 2014
Location(s)	Glenwood, MN
Who May Apply	All qualified job seekers
Responsibilities	<p>NOTE: 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 14AGR000026. This posting may be cancelled if this vacancy is filled at the Soil Scientist 2 level.</p> <p>This position is responsible for serving as one of the technical experts for the MDA on impaired waters issues in agricultural landscapes. This position will be responsible for technical assistance and review of products developed in accordance with the Minnesota Water Quality Framework. A portion of this position is responsible for preventing and minimizing degradation of water quality through the promotion, evaluation and development of crop nutrient best management practices and alternative management tools specifically focusing in on ground water.</p> <p>For more information and how to apply visit www.careers.state.mn.us posting #14AGR000025 or 14AGR000026.</p>

SOIL SCIENTIST 1 OR 2	

Department	Pesticide & Fertilizer Management, Minnesota Department of Agriculture
Closing Date	April 14, 2014
Location(s)	Mankato, MN
Who May Apply	All qualified job seekers
Responsibilities	<p>NOTE: 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 14AGR000028. This posting may be cancelled if this vacancy is filled at the Soil Scientist 2 level.</p> <p>This position is responsible for serving as one of the technical experts for the MDA on impaired waters issues in agricultural landscapes. This position will be responsible for technical assistance and review of products developed in accordance with the Minnesota Water Quality Framework. A portion of this position is responsible for preventing and minimizing degradation of water quality through the promotion, evaluation and development of crop nutrient best management practices and alternative management tools specifically focusing in on ground water.</p> <p>For more information and how to apply visit www.careers.state.mn.us Posting #14AGR000027 or 14AGR000028.</p>

DISTRICT MANAGER

Department	Dodge County SWCD
Closing Date	April 24, 2014
Location(s)	Dodge Center, MN
Who May Apply	All qualified job seekers
Responsibilities	<p>The District Manager is responsible for performing management functions of the Dodge SWCD. The manager performs personnel management, budget preparation, and board management. The manager works with county residents and government officials to address the current and future conservation needs of Dodge County.</p> <p>Essential Duties and Responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● District Operations & Management ● Work closely with County Commissioners, County Coordinator, County Staff, USDA, Cities, Townships and Watershed Districts to the keep them informed of SWCD activities. ● Represent the SWCD at local county, regional and state meetings when needed. ● Conduct public relations for the SWCD. ● Coordinate the development and implementation of operating plans and annual work plans so that program and personnel efforts are coordinated and consistent with District goals and policies. ● Coordinate and implement a training program so staff knowledge, skills and ability levels reflect state-of-the-art capacities in their program and professional areas. ● Provide technical skills and engineering procedures, as needed. <p>Supervision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Coordinate recruitment and hiring in conjunction with the District Board

insuring adherence to legal guideline and policies.

- Pursue affirmative action in the area of equal employment opportunities.
- Develop position descriptions.
- Coordinate job evaluation, salary and performance review programs to ensure equity and compliance with district policies.
- Work to resolve personnel issues and conflicts that arise in the District.
- When necessary, recommend disciplinary action, suspension and/or termination.
- Approve employee timesheets, vacation requests, and sick leave as outlined in the Personnel Handbook.

Manage SWCD Financial Affairs:

- Attend all board meetings and prepare agenda.
- Develop and submit plans, and recommend policies for Board action.
- Prepare and present monthly staff report and other issues affecting the District.
- Communicate issues that can increase awareness and improve decision-making for the Board.
- Manage all issues which arise in the nature of the Soil and Water Conservation District.

Required Knowledge and Skills:

- An understanding of agricultural and forestry practices in southern Minnesota
- Knowledge of computer operation, equipment and GIS software programs
- Knowledge of relevant county, state, and federal laws, ordinances, standards, and specifications as they relate to soil and water management
- Knowledge of conservation planning and practice principles
- Awareness of municipal stormwater management techniques for urban, or suburban, land uses
- Ability to plan, organize, direct, supervise and review work of staff
- Strong written and oral communication and public relation skills, as well as a capability to work with a wide variety of people from different groups and organizations
- A high degree of skill in developing and fostering collaborative relationships both inside and outside the organization
- Ability to define problems, collect data, establish facts, draw valid conclusions, and provide resolutions
- Reading and interpreting documents such as safety rules, regulations, guidelines, policies, operating and maintenance instructions, and procedure manuals
- Grant-writing ability or experience

Preferred Skills:

- Ability to operate surveying equipment
- Ability to perform technical and engineering procedures
- Knowledge of SWCD bookkeeping procedures
- 2 + years of management experience is preferred

For more information and how to apply check out the [job announcement](#).

"Cease being intimidated by the argument that a right action is impossible because it does not yield maximum profits, or that a wrong action is to be condoned because it pays." - Aldo Leopold

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.
