



Minnesota River Weekly Update

April 8, 2014

DNR proposes reintroducing bison to Minneopa State Park

Open house set for April 22 at Blue Earth County Public Library, Mankato. The MnDNR Parks and Trails Division is proposing to reintroduce bison to Minneopa State Park, near Mankato, and is seeking public comments on a draft management plan amendment for the park. The amendment describes the impacts and opportunities created by the reintroduction of bison for resource management, interpretive services, recreation and visitor services at the park. Citizens can ask questions and submit comments until Monday, May 5. As part of the public review, DNR staff will hold an open house at the Blue Earth County Library Tuesday, April 22, from 5:30-7:30 p.m., for anyone interested in providing comments about the draft management plan amendment. The draft management plan amendment is available for review [online](#). Those unable to review and comment on the draft amendment at the open house can submit comments via phone or email [Jade Templin](mailto:Jade.Templin@dnr.state.mn.us) or call (651) 259-5598.

Volunteer water monitors sought to help protect Minnesota lakes and streams

The MPCA is recruiting volunteers who are able to visit a designated lake or stream weekly during the summer. Equipment and training is provided by the MPCA. Hundreds of volunteers will take to the water this summer to measure the health of Minnesota's rivers and lakes. As part of the MPCA's Citizen Stream and Lake Monitoring Programs, these volunteers collect valuable information that helps protect lakes and streams throughout the state. For some water bodies, volunteers are the only regular source of water quality data. For more information visit the [MPCA's website](#) or call the agency at (651) 296-6300

Engage youth in climate change solutions through video

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

State Fair. Awards will be announced at that time. Read more about how to get involved [online](#). This event is in partnership with the MPCA. For more information contact the [Will Steger Foundation](#) (612-278-7147).

2014 Summer Institute for Climate Change and Energy Education!

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

For more information and how to register visit the [Will Steger Foundation's website](#). For questions [email](#) or call (612) 278-7147 them.

2014 Minnesota Grown Directory loaded with local farms

The annual Minnesota Grown Directory is now available, just in time for spring. The directory is a statewide guide to purchasing directly from local producers. The 2014 edition boasts a record setting 978 farms and includes the most Community Supported Agriculture farms and farmers markets. The 2014 directory turns a new page by featuring spokeswoman and Minnesota Olympian Carrie Tollefson's family by her side. "This is inline with our transition from showing Carries as a 'world-class athlete' to a 'world-class mom.' Carrie's athletic accomplishments and her genuine passion for local farms continue to make her the ideal spokeswoman for the Minnesota Grown Program," said Minnesota Grown marketing specialist Jessica Miles. The Tollefson's also exemplify the directory's growing number of family friendly activities, recipes and educational agriculture facts and trivia. Parents and educators can use these exciting activities as a tool to introduce and attract kids to agriculture. The directory also contains ideas for dining out or crafting a Minnesota Cooks inspired recipe in your kitchen. You can order free, printed copies of the Minnesota Grown Directory by calling Exploring Minnesota Tourism 1(888)-TOURISM. You can also order your copy online or look up local farms at [Minnesota Grown](#).

MPCA seeks comments on Upper Mississippi River water quality improvement report and protection plan

The report known as a TMDL, focuses on pollution caused by excess bacteria, mainly E. Coli. A public comment period begins April 7 and continues through May 6. This study and protection plan addresses 22 tributary reaches of the Mississippi River that are impaired for aquatic recreation, due to E. coli, and where restoration efforts need to take place. It also addresses 29 reaches that meet water quality standards for E. coli, and identifies protection strategies to maintain and enhance the river and its tributaries. E. coli monitoring is used to indicate the potential presence of waterborne pathogens that can be harmful to human health. The report indicates that significant bacteria reductions are needed in impaired reaches to meet water quality standards for recreation, up to 97% in some areas. The draft report is available on the [MPCA's TMDL projects webpage](#), or at the St. Paul Office. Comments may be submitted to Barb Peichel, MPCA, 520 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155, or by email to barbara.peichel@state.mn.us.

ARTICLES

[Feds plan to expand Clean Water Act enforcement](#)

Don Davis, March 26, Bemidji Pioneer
Federal clean-water policy has become as muddy over the years as some of the waters it was written to clean up, but on Tuesday the EPA proposed a change that could give government

[MPCA tackles the muddy Minnesota River](#)
Ryan Gustafson, April 2, KEYC News

The MPCA would like to see a 25% reduction in sediment in the Minnesota River by 2020, in an effort to stabilize the waterway's ecosystem and improve recreational activities.

regulators clear authority over millions of acres of wetlands and 2 million miles of streams across the country.

[Bald eagles return to Minnesota River Valley during spring migration](#)

CJ Siewert, April 4, Le Sueur News Herald
In recent weeks, bald eagles on their spring migration pattern have flown back to the Minnesota River Valley. With the river clear of ice, bald eagles have the perfect habitat to find prey and nest.

[Newbie urban gardeners may not be aware of soil's dirty legacy](#)

Maanvi Signh, April 5, NPR
The majority of Americans now live in cities, which means we have very little to do anymore with the production of our food. But there's a reversal of that trend afoot, as more city people decide they want to cultivate crops and raise some livestock.

[Is Minnesota the next battleground in the tar sands fight?](#)

Dan Haugen, April 7, Midwest Energy News
Marty Cobenais has been to every state along the proposed Keystone XL pipeline route, organizing resistance to the project from Montana to Texas.

[Unchecked irrigation threatens to sap Minnesota groundwater](#) (with audio)

Mark Steil, April 7, MPR News
Crop irrigation has boomed in Minnesota in the past few years, increasing land values and raising yields for corn, soybean and other crops. But hundreds of Minnesota farmers appear to be irrigating cropland without the state permits required to use large volumes of public water.

EVENTS

April 7 - April 13

Farmers in southeastern Minnesota invited to unique opportunity involving Minnesota's lakes, rivers and streams
Monday, April 7, 2014 @ 6-8 p.m.

Location: Plainview American Legion 215 3rd St. SW, Plainview, MN 55964
Brief Description: 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.

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](#).

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](#).

Long-term strategy to reduce sediment in Minnesota River and south metro Mississippi River open for public review and comment

Tuesday, April 8, 2014 @ 2-5 p.m.

Location: St. James Hotel, Red Wing

Brief Description: Clearer water for aquatic life and recreation is the goal of a draft strategy to reduce sediment in the Minnesota and Mississippi rivers. The MPCA recently released the strategy for public comment. Citizens have another opportunities to learn about the strategy and provide comment at the following open houses:

- April 10, 2014 @ 2:30-4:30 p.m., Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Bloomington

Excess sediment - primarily clay and silt - contributes to cloudy, murky water, which degrades habitat for fish and aquatic life, and lowers the aesthetic quality of our rivers for recreation and tourism. Both the Minnesota River and Mississippi

downstream south metro Twin Cities have sediment levels that fail to meet water quality standards. The standards are designed to protect aquatic life such as fish and aquatic recreation such as swimming. For the Minnesota River, the strategy proposes interim targets of a 25% reduction in sediment by 2020 and a 50% reduction by 2030. An 80-90% reduction from current sediment loading is needed to meet the goal for the Minnesota River in a study called a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). A TMDL determines the amount - or load - of a pollutant that a river can accept and still meet water quality standards. The South Metro Mississippi River sediment TMDL also requires significant reductions from current loading. The strategy is open for public review and comment through April 17, 2014.

Questions and comments can be submitted to Larry Gunderson, MPCA, 520 Lafayette Rd N, St. Paul, MN 55105, [email](#), or call (651) 757-2400.

Long-term strategy to reduce sediment in Minnesota River and south metro Mississippi River open for public review and comment

Thursday, April 10, 2014 @ 2:30-4:30 p.m.

Location: St. James Hotel, Red Wing

Brief Description: Clearer water for aquatic life and recreation is the goal of a draft strategy to reduce sediment in the Minnesota and Mississippi rivers. The MPCA recently released the strategy for public comment. Excess sediment - primarily clay and silt - contributes to cloudy, murky water, which degrades habitat for fish and aquatic life, and lowers the aesthetic quality of our rivers for recreation and tourism. Both the Minnesota River and Mississippi downstream south metro Twin Cities have sediment levels that fail to meet water quality standards. The standards are designed to protect aquatic life such as fish and aquatic recreation such as swimming. For the Minnesota River, the strategy proposes interim targets of a 25% reduction in sediment by 2020 and a 50% reduction by 2030. An 80-90% reduction from current sediment loading is needed to meet the goal for the Minnesota River in a study called a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). A TMDL determines the amount - or load - of a pollutant that a river can accept and still meet water quality standards. The South Metro Mississippi River sediment TMDL also requires significant reductions from current loading. The strategy is open for public review and comment through April 17, 2014.

Questions and comments can be submitted to Larry Gunderson, MPCA, 520 Lafayette Rd N, St. Paul, MN 55105, [email](#), or call (651) 757-2400.

Discussion of Environmental Priorities with Rep. Brynaert and Rep. Johnson

Friday, April 11, 2014 @ 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Location: For location information [email](#) or call (651) 789-0655 Minnesota Environmental Partnership

Brief Description: Join us for a discussion with the State Representative Kathy Brynaert and Representative Clark Johnson about critical environmental and conservation issues being heard this Legislative Session. This discussion and information session is being hosted by the Minnesota Environmental Partnership. Please join the discussion and share your priorities for protecting Minnesota's lakes, rivers, land, air and great outdoors! Topics include:

- Move Minnesota: a new transportation funding will enable that state to expand access and opportunity for all while producing cleaner air, and living wage jobs
- Green Lands -- Clean Waters: priorities include phasing out triclosan, an ineffective and dangerous chemical agent in anti-bacterial soaps; investing in high-performance crop development through the U of M Forever Green Initiative; and re-establishing the Legislative Water Commission.
- Clean Energy & Jobs: improving energy-efficiency opportunities for

schools; creating low-cost energy-efficiency financing tools for businesses; and simplifying standards for installing systems that generate clean energy, like solar and wind, will help us reach a goal of 50% renewable energy for all, by 2030.

"The Benefits of Being Shallow" - A Shallow Lakes Forum

Saturday, April 12, 2014 @ 8 - 11:30 a.m.

Location: Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, Snyder Auditorium

Brief Description: Shallow Lakes are lakes that average 15 feet or less in depth. They provide a variety of benefits, including fishing, recreation, and habitat for wildlife. Managing a shallow lake has its own set of unique challenges, which this forum will highlight. Participants will learn how shallow lakes work, how to determine the health of a shallow lake through monitoring, information about regulations affecting shallow lakes, and how to engage neighbors and friends to protect these unique lakes.

For more information and to register visit [Minnehaha Creek Watershed District's website](#).

Conservation in a Changing Climate: Teaching about Climate Change

Saturday, April 12, 2014 @ 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Location: Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Bloomington Education and Visitor Center, 3815 American Blvd E, Bloomington, MN

Brief Description: Are you confused about all the science? Are you unsure how to talk to your students about the climate change issue? Do you lack the time to develop your own curriculum? Do you want to avoid gloom and doom scenarios? Are you looking for ways your students can become part of the solution? If you answered YES! to any of these questions this workshop is for you.

For more information contact [Judy Geck](#) (952) 858-0731, and to register [click here](#).

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 14 - April 20

Minnesota River Watershed Alliance

Tuesday, April 15, 2014 @ 6 p.m.

Location: Ridgewater College, Hutchinson, MN

Brief Description: A major event focusing on the Minnesota River and the "Blueway" project are proposed for the agenda at the April 15 quarterly meeting of the Minnesota River Watershed Alliance. At its January meeting, the Alliance voted to continue working on the Blueway goals. The Blueway working group of the Alliance is drafting a propose agreement with the regional office of the US Fish and Wildlife Service and other federal agencies, to continue work on the goals and objectives contained in the initial Blueway nomination for the Minnesota River. The Minnesota River was in line to become the second major river in the US to receive Blueway designation, when the program was halted by the US Department of Interior. A group of Alliance members have been discussing the idea of a major event this summer focusing on the Minnesota River. It would include discussion and entertainment, and showcase a wide variety of individuals and organizations working on economic, recreation and environmental projects in the basin. The Alliance welcomes ideas and contributions from everyone interested in protecting and improving the economic, recreation, and environmental well-being of the Minnesota River Basin. All are welcome to attend the Alliance meeting; a potluck meal begins at 6 p.m. and the meeting at 7

p.m. More information is available on the [Alliance's blogspot](#).

How to get involved in the MAWQCP

Wednesday, April 16, 2014 @ 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Location: Triumph Hall, 546 Main Street East, Trimont, MN 56176

Brief Description: The MDA and Rural Advantage invite farmers in the Elm Creek area to an open house on April 16 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. At the open houses, MDA and Elm Creek 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. No registration is required for the open house.

Farmers with questions about the event can contact Linda Meschke with Rural Advantage (507) 238-5449. For more information on the Program visit the [MDA's website](#). Farmers can also contact their local SWCD offices in Faribault, Jackson and Martin counties.

Metro CERT Spring Resource and Networking Event

Thursday, April 17, 2014 @ 4-8 p.m.

Location: Bullard Rainforest Auditorium, Como Park Zoo & Conservatory, St. Paul, MN

Brief Description: Join the Metro Clean Energy Resource Team community partners and friends to celebrate Metro CERT's 7th year of connecting communities to resources. Hear about clean energy projects and work that is happening all over the 11-county metro area. Find out how to start a project in your community, and network with others committed to local clean energy. The program will be followed by a cash bar, light appetizers, and networking. Learn more about and RSVP for free by checking out their [website](#).

National Park Week: Go Wild!

Saturday, April 19 to Sunday, April 20, 2014

Location: National Parks nationwide

Brief Description: Each spring, the National Park Service and the National Park Foundation invite everyone to celebrate National Park Week. This year, from April 19-27 YOU are invited to celebrate all that America's more than 400 national parks have to offer with the theme "National Park Week: Go Wild!" From diverse wildlife and iconic landscapes to vibrant culture and rich history, our National Park System has something for everyone. Our national parks are kicking off National Park Week with fee-free entrance days on April 19 and 20. Whether you're a hiker, a historian, a romantic, a family with kids, a crowd-lover or someone seeking solitude, the National Park Foundation's FREE Owner's Guide series is jam-packed with ideas to help you plan your next national park adventure! You can download all the guides for free on the [National Park's website](#).

For more information about National Park Week visit their [website](#).

**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](#).

Clean Energy and Jobs Earth Day Rally at the Capitol

Tuesday, April 22, 2014 @ 4 p.m.

Location: State Capitol Building - The Rotunda, St. Paul

Brief Description: Answer Governor's Dayton's call to build a sustainable energy future for our state. With bold action, our state legislators can keep Minnesota on the cutting edge of clean energy development, but they need to see that Minnesotans want it! [Attend](#) the Clean Energy and Jobs Earth Day Rally to show your support for building a clean energy legacy for Minnesota!

For more information and to RSVP check out [The Sierra Club's webpage](#).

April 28 - May 4

Climate, Clean Water, and Clean Energy

Tuesday, May 1, 2014 @ 6:30 p.m.

Location: Mt. Cavalry Lutheran Church, Excelsior, MN

Brief Description: Minnesota is on a clean energy path that is bringing benefits to human health and our water, air and natural resources. Paul Huttner, chief meteorologist for MPCA, Dr. Mark Seeley, U of M meteorologist, and J. Drake Hamilton, science policy director at Fresh Energy, will describe effective clean energy solutions that benefits all. Tammy Walhof, Director of the Lutheran Coalition for Public Policy in Minnesota, will provide faith reflections. This event is free and open to public.

For more information contact [Bill Becker](#) (651) 296-6397 or [Heather Koop](#) (651) 297-7142.

The State of Water Conference: Minnesotans Protecting our Lakes and Rivers

Thursday, May 1 - Friday, May 2, 2014

Location: Cragun's, Brainerd, MN

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.

River History Weekend & CURE's 22nd Annual Meeting

Thursday, May 1 - Sunday, May 4, 2014

Estar in el Prairie Photo Essay Exhibit Opening & Reception

Thursday, May 1 @ 7-9 p.m.

Location: KK Berge Building, Granite Falls, MN

Brief Description: *Retratos de nuestra nueva comunidad Latina:* Portraits of Western Minnesota's Emerging Latino Community. The photo essay exhibit is up through the month of May. [Click here to learn more about the project.](#) University of Minnesota Morris students Jordan Wenthe and Natalie Hoidal have sought to document the significance of the Latino Culture, and its importance to the rural landscape through black and white photography. From 2000 to 2010, the Latino population in Steven's County increased by 234%. In order to put faces and stories to this number, we are pairing photographers in the Morris area with Latino members of the community. Funding for this photo essay exhibit has been made possible in part by Clean Up the River Environment (CURE) through a grant from the Kresge Foundation, The Center for Small Towns, University of Minnesota Morris, Granite Area Arts Council and by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Southwest Minnesota Arts Council thanks to a legislative appropriation through the arts and cultural heritage fund.

"Don't Worry; We've Got This" - A Gathering of Rising Leaders

Friday, May 2 @ 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Location: Granite Falls American Legion, 2nd Floor

Brief Description:

Local food appetizer buffet catered by Bootlegger's Supper Club; cash bar
Panel of speakers & world café discussion

Open Mic! An opportunity for you to play music, perform slaw poetry, try your hand at comedy, stage a skit, or share anything that can be performed!

People of all ages are welcome to attend this event! For more information and to RSVP email [Sarina](#) or call 1(877) 269-2873 to let us know you plan on attending. Event is free but RSVP is appreciated for a food county.

Stenciling the Storm Drains

Saturday, May 3 @ 9 a.m.

Location: KK Berge Building, Granite Falls, MN

Brief Description: CURE member Diana Moe is leading volunteers with painting the storm drains in Granite Falls that lead to the Minnesota River. Volunteers will meet at 9 a.m. for team assignments. Please dress in older clothes and shoes as you will be working with paint. It is expected that this activity will take three hours. This is a great activity for families and youth groups with adult supervisors.

Making Kestrel Bird Houses

Saturday, May 3 @ 10 a.m.

Location: KK. Berge Building, Granite Falls, MN

Brief Description: Volunteers are needed to assist in the making of Kestrel Bird Houses. Kestrels are most easily distinguished by their typical hunting behavior which is to hover at a height of around 10-20 meters (33-66 ft) over open country and swoop down on prey, usually small mammals, lizards or large insects. These bird houses will be distributed and put up in the watershed to support the Kestrel population.

Bluebird Birding at Upper Sioux Agency State Park

Saturday, May 3 @ 10:30 a.m.

Location: Activity Room in the Park Office, Upper Sioux Agency State Park

Brief Description: MN Master Naturalist & CURE member Jill Haluska will be teaching about bluebirds living at the State Park. The first part of the session will be inside learning about bluebird habitat and how to select and care for bluebird nest boxes on your own property. The second half of session will be outside on the bluebird trail. Participants can follow a map or use GPS navigation to find the bluebird houses spread through the park. GPS units will be available for those wanting to borrow one. Participants may want to bring their own GPS unit or use a navigation app of their smart phone. Meet in the Activity Room at the Park Office.

Paint Your Own Minnesota River Catfish

Saturday, May 3 @ 11 a.m.

Location: Plaza outside of the KK Berge Building, Granite Falls, MN

Brief Description: Artist and CURE member Tamara Isfeld will be leading painting activity. Come learn about the fish species in the Minnesota River and learn how to paint a Catfish. Participants will learn about the catfish family and how to paint them. No experience needed - just the desire to learn and a sense of humor. Participants should wear clothes that can get paint on them. Family-friendly activity.

Paint Your Own Minnesota River Sunny

Saturday, May 3 @ 1 p.m.

Location: Plaza outside the KK Berge Building, Granite Falls, MN

Brief Description: Artist and CURE member Tamara Isfeld will be leading painting activity. Come learn about the fish species in the Minnesota River and learn how to paint a Bluegill and Crappie. Participants will learn about the catfish family and how to paint them. No experience needed - just the desire to learn and a sense of humor. Participants should wear clothes that can get paint on them. Family-friendly activity.

An Afternoon with an Author and Poet Gwen Westerman

Saturday, May 3 @ 1 p.m.

Location: KK. Berge Building, Granite Falls, MN

Brief Description: Gwen Westerman is a member of the Sisseton Oyate and recipient of numerous regional and national awards for her literary works as well as her fiber arts, she will be reading select passages from her latest publication "Following the Blackbirds." The speaker's grandmother urges, "Look for blackbirds...they always go to water." The recurring image of blackbirds signals an instinct to return to language and land, two elementals that are tangles in Westerman's work. Westerman teaches at Minnesota State University, Mankato and lives in Good Thunder.

CURE's 22nd Annual Meeting

Saturday, May 3 @ 4-10 p.m.

Location: Bootlegger's Supper Club, Granite Falls, MN

Brief Description:

4 p.m. Registration and Cash Bar

5 p.m. Local Food Buffet

6 p.m. CURE Business Meeting and Awards, Silent Auction & Kayak Sweepstakes

6:45 p.m. [Paddle Forward Presentation](#) by Wild River Academy

7:30 p.m. Performance by [Singer/Songwriter James Hersch](#)

225 person limit. Registration required. For more information and to register check out the [CURE's website](#).

River History Weekend & CURE's 22nd Annual Meeting: Paddling Opportunity

Saturday, May 3, 2014 @ 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Location: Wegdahl Chippewa County Park

Brief Description:

11 a.m. Safety Training with Wild River Academy. The team from Wild River Academy, Anna Johnson, Nick Ryan, and Natalie Warren will provide water safety basics and paddling basics for your river adventures. Anna is a Wilderness First responder and Nick and Natalie are Wilderness First Aid certified. This event is free and open for all ages.

11:45 a.m. there will be a light lunch at the park

12:30 p.m. Self-organized Paddle Trips. Stations will be set up at Wegdahl Chippewa County Park for people to gather @ meet to paddle other rivers in the Upper MN River Watershed.

1 p.m. Family Paddle Trip with the Eco-Voyageur Canoe led by Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center (PWELC). Begin at Prien's Landing in Montevideo; end at Wegdahl.

Limit 17 spots per Eco-Voyageur trip. You may reserve your spot by calling Dixie at the CURE office 1(877) 269-2873. Reservations required & shuttles will be provided.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

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>

MONITORING HYDROLOGIST

Department	Ecological & Water Resources, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Closing Date	April 14, 2014
Location(s)	Marshall, MN
Who May Apply	All qualified job seekers
Responsibilities	<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">• Support the operation and maintenance of DNR Ecological and Waters Resources stream, lake and ground water data collection programs.• Assist in the organization and management of DNR Ecological and Waters monitoring and geologic mapping data.• Assist with the analysis of surface and ground water data to support sound conclusions and recommendations on water resource management issues. <p>For more information and how to apply visit www.careers.state.mn.us posting #14DNR000253.</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>

MAPPING PROJECT HYDROLOGIST

Department	Ecological & Water Resources, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Closing Date	April 17, 2014

Location(s)	St. Paul, MN
Who May Apply	All qualified job seekers
Responsibilities	<p>** Applicants to this position may be used to fill a second identical vacancy. **</p> <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.careers.state.mn.us posting #14DNR000265.</p>

DISTRICT WATER APPROPRIATION HYDROLOGIST	
Department	Ecological & Water Resources/Region 3, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Closing Date	April 21, 2014
Location(s)	St. Paul, MN
Who May Apply	All qualified job seekers
Responsibilities	<p>This position exists to ensure sustainability of the State's water resources through management of the activities within the Ecological and Water Resources Central Region, South District including the Twin Cities and Southeast Minnesota.</p> <p>Duties include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure groundwater resource uses are permitted and sustained in accordance with applicable State statutes and rules. • Conduct technical analysis and to provide quality assistance to the general public, local units of government and other resource professionals so that data, information, and regulations may be correctly interpreted in a useful manner. This includes quantitative, as well as qualitative information. • Promote and implement groundwater resource conservation and sustainability. • Develop and expand partnerships with the general public and governmental agencies to improve collaboration and better integrate responsibilities among resource managers.

For more information and how to apply visit www.careers.state.mn.us posting #14DNR000264.

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. <p>Manage SWCD Financial Affairs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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. <p>Required Knowledge and Skills:</p>

- 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](#).

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.