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## Minnesota River Weekly Update

April 22, 2014

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### **Nicollet County Historical Society offers annual student scholarship**

The NCHS is offering the \$1,000 Ted Moline Scholarship for post-secondary education. Graduating high school seniors to incoming college seniors for eligible. Ted Moline was born July 21, 1915, in St. Paul and soon after his family moved to Baldwin Wisconsin. Ted received an amateur radio operator license in 1934 and was an avid operator the rest of his life. Ted moved to St. Peter in 1937 to work for the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis, and Omaha Railroad. Ted also served in the United States Army. He retired in 1971 as a Colonel. Ted passed away in August 2005. He was an extremely generous man who loved local history. This scholarship honors Ted and his commitment to our missions. The scholarship winner will complete a 100 hour summer research project based out of the Treaty Site History Center in St. Paul. The deadline to apply is May 23, 2014. Applicants are asked to provide a resume or description of past experience, and a personal statement, not to exceed 500 words, on why they are interested in the scholarship.

For more information contact [Alyssa Auten](mailto:Alyssa.Auten@nchshs.org) (507) 934-2160.

### **Update of environmental rules for livestock feedlots on PCA board agenda**

MPCA Citizens' Board will meet April 22 to decide on a staff recommendation to adopt revisions and updates to environmental rules for livestock feedlots. The changes arise from 2011 legislative action, and 'housekeeping' updates. In the 2011 special session, the state Legislature voted to follow a federal government change to remove the requirement of a NPDES permit for large feedlots, if there is no discharge of manure from the site or from storage areas. After all approvals have occurred, the revised rules would go into effects, perhaps by late May or early June. The meeting was open to the public.

For more information visit the MPCA's website and search "feedlot rules."

### **Ethanol plant at Buffalo Lake cited for wastewater violations**

The ethanol plant in Buffalo Lake formerly owned by Minnesota Energy is in the process of correcting water and air quality violations, and must pay a \$10,000 penalty, under an agreement with the MPCA. An MPCA inspections revealed an unpermitted discharge of contaminated stormwater and cooling tower wastewater from the plant to a county ditch. The inspection also noted failure to meet permit requirements for observing discharge limits, monitoring, reporting. The plant is now owned by Buffalo Lake Advance Biofuels, which is

responsible for correcting the problem.

### **EPA approves reports on bacteria pollution in Cottonwood and Redwood River watersheds**

Reports addressing pollution from bacteria in sections of the Redwood and Cottonwood Rivers in south central Minnesota have been approved by the US EPA. The MPCA had placed the sections on the state's impaired waters list for exceeding the water quality standard for harmful bacteria. Having received federal approval, state, and local agencies will now focus on projects to reduce the level of pollution. Bacteria in water can be reduced by improvements in sewage treatment and better managing livestock manure. For more information about the report you can see copies on MPCA's website for the [Cottonwood River TMDL](#) and [Redwood River TMDL](#).

### **Engage youth in climate change solutions through video**

Make a video for [Youth Voices of 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 Aug 22, 2014 on the Sustainability Stage at the EcoExperience at the Minnesota State Fair. Awards will be announced at that time. Read more about how to get involved [online](#). The deadline to submit videos is less than a month away. Video submissions will be accepted until May 16. so get yours in today! The event is in partnership with the MPCA.

For more information contact [education@willstegerfoundation.org](mailto:education@willstegerfoundation.org) or call (612) 278-7147.

<b>ARTICLES</b>	
<p><a href="#">CO<sub>2</sub> climate and the case for wooden skyscrapers</a> <i>Nathanael Massey, Apr. 15, E&amp;E Publishing, LLC</i> It's been nearly a century and a half since steel replaced wood as the primary material of ships, bridges and other large infrastructure manufactured by the developed world. By the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century, steel constructs like the locomotive and the skyscraper had become symbols of the Industrial Revolution and testaments to human ingenuity.</p>	<p><a href="#">Massive Project continues in Blakely</a> Apr. 17, Belle Plaine Herald Large earth moving vehicles and other heavy equipment are prevalent along the steep hillsides of Blakely village this spring. It's one of the biggest projects to take place in the secluded community in recent years. Its purpose is to stabilize that area of the Minnesota River Valley.</p>
<p><a href="#">Iron mining and the environment: Reclaiming the land</a> <i>Craig Pagel, Apr. 18, Hometown Focus</i> Before the first shovel can dip into the ground for the first time, iron mining facilities undergo an extensive environmental permitting process that reviews and sets parameters on water use, wetland mitigation, dust control, erosion prevention, overburden stockpile, air emissions, reclamation plans, financial assurances, and more.</p>	<p><a href="#">As pesticide worries grow, 'bee safe' plants generate a buzz</a> (with audio) <i>Dan Gunderson, Apr. 18, MPR News</i> Gardeners shopping for plants this spring at Bachman's nurseries will find some new signs in the soil. The company will begin telling customers which of its plants are safe for bees. Bachman's is growing plants now at its Lakeville production center that are free of neonicotinoid insecticide, a widely used treatment that experts partly blame for the die-off of bee populations in Minnesota and across the country is recent years.</p>
<p><a href="#">As hog production drops, packing plants cut back</a> <i>Mark Steil, Apr. 18, MPR News</i></p>	<p><a href="#">Frac sand ban could 'make new law'</a> <i>Craig Moorhead, Apr. 18, Spring Grove Herald</i></p>

The USDA has stepped up its fight against porcine epidemic diarrhea, a deadly hog disease that has killed millions of pigs in the United States.

The decision on whether or not ban frac sand mining in Houston County has been put off until at least next fall. County commissioners held a conference call with land use attorney Jay Squires on Tuesday, April 8.

**Can Wal-Mart really make organic food cheap for everyone?**

*Dan Charles, Apr. 19, MPR News*

It could be another milestone in organic food's evolution from crunchy to commercial: Wal-Mart, the king of mass retailing, is promising to "drive down organic food prices" with a new line of organic food products. The new products will be at least 25 percent cheaper than organic food that's on Wal-Mart's shelves right now.

**River dredge pile a growing concern in Savage**

*Amy Lyon, Apr. 19, Shakopee News*

The Lower Minnesota River Watershed District may have a buyer for a growing heap of sediment that has been dredged from the Minnesota River and piled high on land in Savage.

## EVENTS

**April 21 -  
April 27**

**Minnesota Agri-growth Council: Legislative Policy Luncheon**

Tuesday, April 22, 2014 @ 11:15 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

**Location:** Best Western Kelly Inn, St. Paul, MN

**Brief Description:** During the Minnesota Legislative Session the Agri-Growth Council hosts monthly policy luncheons to discuss timely issues, network with agriculture contacts, and get to know legislators, members of Congress, and other special guests. The 2014 program is sponsored by Davis Family Dairies. The luncheons will be held on Tuesdays (April 22 - Senator Rod Skoe; May 6 - House Minority Leader Kurt Daudt). Each luncheon follows the general schedule:

- 11:15 a.m. Registration and introduction to Agri-Growth Executive Director, Perry Aasness
- 11:30 a.m. Buffet lunch
- 12:15 p.m. Speak remarks
- 12:30 p.m. Q&A
- 12:45 p.m. Adjourn

For more information and to register visit [Agri-Growth Council'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](#).

**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](#).

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**Water Champion Award Winners Announcement Ceremony**

Thursday, April 24, 2014 @ 5:30-9 p.m.

**Location:** The Lafayette Club, Minnetonka Beach

**Brief Description:** The Minnehaha Creek Watershed District and naturalist Jim Gilbert will be honored Clean Water Champions by the Freshwater Society. The award to the watershed district recognizes the district's nearly 50 years of work protecting and restoring Lake Minnetonka, Minnehaha Creek, the Minneapolis Chain of Lakes and the other waters in the watershed. Gilbert's award honors his even-longer career as a naturalist and educator. The two Clean Water Champion awards are sponsored by the Mosaic Company Foundation. The award presentation is at an event that also celebrates the departure of ice and the arrival of loons on metro-area lakes

For more information about the event and to register visit the [events website](#).

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**Savor Minnesota**

Saturday, April 26, 2014 @ 12 p.m.

**Location:** Canterbury Park, 1100 Canterbury Road, Shakopee, MN 55379

**Brief Description:** The fifth annual Savor Minnesota, sponsored by Minnesota Grown, Minnesota Farm Winery Association and Total Wine & More, is the only event offering a one-stop opportunity to sample the best wine, beer and food from local producers. Doors open at noon; wine and beer will be served between 1-5 p.m. Admission is \$45 at the door, \$40 in advance (tax not included) if purchased online or in person at Northern Vineyards Winery in Stillwater. Admission includes a four-hour tasting featuring wines from nearly 20 Minnesota vineyards, nibbles from more than 20 food producers - including everything from cheese to chocolate - and beer from several local breweries. Tickets are limited to the first 1,200 people. All attendees must be at least 21. Ticker holders receive a wine glass, reusable shopping bag and booklet of the event with a list of the items available for sampling, space to take notes on each exhibitor and more than \$100 in discounts from participating exhibitors. Attendees will also be able to purchase up to six bottles of wine from Minnesota wineries as they exit the show area.

For more information and to register visit [Savor Minnesota's website](#).

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**Earth Day Cleanup**

Saturday, April 26, 2014 @ 2-4 p.m.

**Location:** Minneapolis River Gorge, Minneapolis, MN

**Brief Description:** Join Friends of the Mississippi River (FMR) for their annual Earth Day Cleanup. FMR will organize meetings at two sites along West River Parkway to cleanup the river together. These sites are at E 36th Street and E 44th Street. Come to whichever site is most convenient for you! FMR will provide supplies. Pre-registration is not required for these cleanups; however, if you have a group of more than 10 people, please email [Lindsay](#).

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

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**April 28 - May 4**

**Le Sueur River Watershed Network Community Potluck & Meeting**

Monday, April 28, 2014 @ 6-8:30 p.m.

**Location:** Eagle Lake American Legion-Post 617, Eagle Lake, MN

**Brief Description:** The Le Sueur River Watershed Network is sponsoring a potluck and meeting on April 28, 2014 in Eagle Lake. After the potluck there will be a presentation about lake fisheries and shoreland protection and a discussion about the future of the watershed group. The public is invited to this free event to join the conversation about the newly forming Le Sueur watershed group and to share a meal with watershed neighbors. The main dish will be provided by

Uncle Albert's Café, while participants are asked to share a side dish. Craig Soupir, MnDNR Area Supervisor will talk about lake fisheries and lake shoreland protection. Citizen leaders from the Le Sueur River Watershed Network will provide an overview of the group and continue the conversation about the group's future by deciding on a mission statement and discussing the group's next steps. The event is free and open to new members. Anyone interested in learning more about the watershed or the emerging citizen-led watershed group is welcome.

For more information about the group visit the Le Sueur River Watershed Network. Please preregister by Friday, April 25, by contacting [Jessica Nelson](#) (507) 389-2704 or [Kim Musser](#) 507-389-5307..

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#### **MN GreenStep Cities Seminar**

Wednesday, April 30, 2014 @ 3:30-5:30 p.m. and 5:30-6:30 p.m.

**Location:** National Eagle Center, Wabasha, MN

**Brief Description:** The Wapashaw Chapter of the Izaak Walton League invites you to an information seminar about MN GreenStep Cities, which is a free program with the MPCA that challenges, assists, and recognizes cities for efforts in sustainability. GreenStep Cities is a continuous improvement program based on 28 best practices - each practice can be implemented by completing one or more detailed actions. Actions are tailored to the city. They focus on cost savings and energy use reduction, and encourage civic innovation.

For more information and to RSVP call Larry Gates or email [Michele McCaughtry](#), or visit the [MN GreenStep website](#).

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#### **Climate, Clean Water, and Clean Energy**

Thursday, 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 benefit 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.

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#### **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.

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### 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 Wentz 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 Stevens 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](#).

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**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.

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**Egg Coffee and Newtons**

*Sunday, May 4, 2014 @ 1-4 p.m.*

**Location:** Harkin Store

**Brief Description:** Our first program welcomes visitors with a cup of "Egg Coffee and Newtons." Come enjoy a cup of egg coffee made on the original Harkin Store stove and some newtons while looking at the 1870's store. The store boasts of 40% original merchandise on the shelves. The Harkin Store is located in the once thriving riverboat town of West Newton on the Minnesota River, nine miles northwest of New Ulm on Nicollet County Road 21, or the bottom road, or nine miles east of Fort Ridgely. The admission to the program is included with the admission to the store. The gift shop is filled to the brim with new books, toys, unique items and many hand-crafted items, also 10 cent candy. The store is open in May on Saturdays and Sundays.



For more information contact Nicollet County Historical Society (507) 354-8666.

**May 5 - May 11**

**May 12 - May 18**

**E. St. Julien Cox House hosts its 26th Annual Plant**

Saturday, May 17, 2014 @ 8 a.m.

**Location:**

**Brief Description:** In upholding one of the grandest of traditions, the Honorable E. St. Julien Cox and Mrs. Mariah Cox and their children will be heralding one of the City of Saint Peter's most prestigious rights of spring, The Annual Plant Sale. Mrs. Cox announce that the sale will be held in the morning on the front lawn of their beautiful home, which is located on the corners of Washington and Skaro.

For more information contact Richard E. Tostenson (612) 859-0061.

**JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**TECHNICIAN/ENGINEERING TECHNICIAN**

<b>Department</b>	Renville County SWCD
<b>Closing Date</b>	April 23, 2014
<b>Location(s)</b>	Olivia, MN
<b>Who May Apply</b>	All qualified job seekers
<b>Responsibilities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• General knowledge in natural resource protection.</li><li>• Basic survey &amp; design of conservation practices.</li><li>• Computer skills using GIS, GPS, ArcView, LiDar, Toolkit &amp; Microsoft Office.</li><li>• Written &amp; oral communication skills. Ability to write reports and to promote conservation practices to individuals and groups.</li><li>• Good social skills including the ability to communicate with landowners, land operators, contractors, and federal, state and local agency staff regarding conservation practices &amp; programs.</li><li>• Ability to work independently &amp; organize workload and time. Goal oriented.</li><li>• Troubleshooting and problem solving skills.</li></ul>
For more information and how to apply check out the <a href="#">job announcement</a> .	

**DISTRICT MANAGER**

<b>Department</b>	Dodge County SWCD
<b>Closing Date</b>	April 24, 2014
<b>Location(s)</b>	Dodge Center, MN
<b>Who May Apply</b>	All qualified job seekers
<b>Responsibilities</b>	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.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities:

- District Operations & Management
- Work closely with County Commissioners, County Coordinator, County Staff, USDA, Cities, Townships and Watershed Districts to 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.

Supervision

- 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](#).

### GROUNDWATER HYDROLOGIST

<b>Department</b>	Ecological Water Resources, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
<b>Closing Date</b>	April 25, 2014
<b>Location(s)</b>	Park Rapids, MN
<b>Who May Apply</b>	All qualified job seekers
<b>Responsibilities</b>	<p>This position exists to ensure sustainability of the State's groundwater resources through management of groundwater appropriations within the Ecological and Water Resources NW Region. The incumbent may also complete work assignments that involve state-wide projects and policy.</p> <p>Duties include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure groundwater resource uses are permitted and sustained in accordance with applicable State statutes and rules.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Promote and implement groundwater resource conservation and sustainability.</li> <li>• Develop and expand partnerships with the general public and governmental agencies to improve collaboration and better integrate responsibilities among resource managers.</li> </ul> <p>For more information and how to apply visit <a href="http://www.careers.state.mn.us">www.careers.state.mn.us</a> posting #14DNR000107.</p>

### HYDROLOGIST 2

<b>Department</b>	Minnesota Department of Agriculture
<b>Closing Date</b>	May 1, 2014
<b>Location(s)</b>	St. Cloud, MN
<b>Who May Apply</b>	All qualified job seekers
<b>Responsibilities</b>	This position will provide technical expertise to evaluate human health and

environmental risks, review environmental investigations and determine appropriate soil, sediment, air and ground water cleanup goals and corrective actions at agricultural chemical incident sites and to provide related technical support to the Department.

Additionally this position will provide hydrologic expertise to the Pesticide and Fertilizer Management Division through the development and implementation of protocols and procedures for water quality monitoring studies, analysis of water quality data and information, and the general assessment of the impacts of agricultural chemicals on water quality.

For more information and how to apply visit [www.careers.state.mn.us](http://www.careers.state.mn.us) posting #14AGR00037..

### WATERSHED COORDINATOR

<b>Department</b>	Heron Lake Watershed District
<b>Closing Date</b>	May 15, 2014
<b>Location(s)</b>	Heron Lake, MN
<b>Who May Apply</b>	All qualified job seekers
<b>Responsibilities</b>	<p>The goals of the Watershed Coordinator position are</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. to enhance partnerships between Nobles, Jackson, Murray, and Cottonwood Counties and the Heron Lake Watershed District (HLWD) to assist with obtaining current feedlot information through onsite inspections and project promotion and</li> <li>2. establish a framework that the local government can use to guide their involvement as the WFDMR Watershed Project progresses over the next four years.</li> </ol> <p>This will enhance the success of the overarching goal of providing a framework for which the local government and watershed organizations can engage the public in a manner that will lead to water quality improvement. This will result in strategies to protect or restore the waters in this watershed.</p> <p>These strategies will be used as the basis for making informed local water quality and land use planning decisions, as well as development of grant applications to implement the restoration and protection of waters in the WFDMR watershed. This will be accomplished by conducting a feedlot inventory, coordinating meetings, and providing written and verbal updates to various entities. The position requires strong grant writing, technical writing, financial planning, interpersonal skills, public speaking, and computer skills. Agricultural knowledge is required.</p> <p>The position also requires a self-motivated person who will receive some instruction from the District Administrator, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), and Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Work Group, but who will perform the majority of tasks with little or no supervision.</p> <p>For more information visit <a href="#">Heron Lake WD's website.</a></p>

***"Take a course in good water and air; and in the eternal youth of Nature you may renew your own. Go quietly, along; no harm will befall you." - John Muir***

Please register at the Minnesota River Watershed Alliance's bulletin board at <http://mail.mnsu.edu/mailman/listinfo/mrwa/> to receive regular updates on what is happening in the Minnesota River Basin.

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