



Minnesota River Weekly Update

May 13, 2014

Important 2014 deadlines for livestock disaster aid

Minnesota livestock producers can submit notices for animal loss and apply for payment to the USDA FSA disaster programs, which were reinstated with the passage of the 2014 Farm Bill. Funding is retroactive and covers some losses back to October 2011. Claims from past years must have proper documentation to receive funding, which may include photos, ownership records or purchase and transportation receipts. "With funding restored, now is the time to act. The MDA has been encouraging producers over the last few years to document all losses pending this return in funding of livestock assistance programs. We encourage producers to connect with their local Minnesota FSA to seek reimbursement," said MDA livestock development supervisor, Curt Zimmerman. The reimbursements cover several areas of livestock and are broken into three categories: Livestock Indemnify Program, Livestock Forage Program, Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-raised Fish Program.

For more information visit the [Minnesota FSA office website](#).

Open house for draw-down project near Diamond Lake

An open house has been scheduled for 7 p.m. May 15 about a project to draw down three small lakes east of Diamond Lake in Kandiyohi County. In an effort to remove rough fish and improve water quality, Hubbard, Schultz, and Wheeler lakes will be drained and restored in a joint project of the Middle Fork Crow Watershed District, Diamond Lake Area Recreation Association, DNR, and Ducks Unlimited. The open house will be at the MFCRWD office, 189 Co. Rd. NE, Spicer.

MPCA begins water quality monitoring field work through Minnesota

Monitoring crews from the MPCA are beginning the seventh of a ten-year effort to assess the condition of rivers, streams, and lakes in Minnesota. This work is funded by the CWF from the constitutional amendment passed by voters in 2008. The majority of this summer's monitoring activities will take place in nine of Minnesota's 81 major watersheds. A team based in Brainerd will work in the Marsh River, Wild Rice River, Clearwater River, Upper and Lower Red Lakes, and Rainy River-Headwaters watersheds. As St. Paul-based team will work in the Lower Minnesota River, Des Moines River-Headwaters, Lower Des Moines River, and East Fork Des Moines River watersheds. Each watershed is comprised of a network of interconnected streams, lakes and wetlands. The intent of this morning effort is to develop a complete picture of conditions of the various water bodies within each watershed. To see monitoring teams in action, you can watch short videos on [fish sampling](#) and [invertebrate sampling](#) on the [MPCA's biological monitoring website](#).

Mobile website lets Minnesotans explore landscape in new detail

With detailed elevation data and mapping resources, a new mobile website called MnTOPO gives outdoor enthusiasts and scientists a chance to explore Minnesota's landscape on desktop PCs, tablets and smartphones, the MnDNR announced. Under the Minnesota Elevation Mapping Project, high-accuracy elevation data was collected for the state using LiDAR technology. The [MnTOPO website](#) makes this data available so users can view topographic information as 3D terrain analysis and/or contours for all of Minnesota in a seamless panning environment. It was developed with two primary audience application in mind: visual terrain exploration and digital terrain data download. People who use the application will find the ability to peruse Minnesota's 3D topographic landscape exciting and beneficial, Vaughn said. Those interested in working directly with the data can download digital elevation models and LiDAR elevation data for their area of interest. For more information on the [Minnesota Elevation Mapping Project](#) and [Minnesota LiDAR data](#).

Freeborn County case highlights risks of burning tires, garbage

Charles Borneman of Albert Lea Trailer has paid a \$20,000 penalty to the MPCA following an investigation of three fires on his property in March 2012. The MPCA found several piles of garbage, ash from burning garbage, and garbage buried in a wetland in Borneman properties, and also discovered that parts solvent had been used as an accelerant in starting the fires. Burning and burying garbage is generally illegal in Minnesota. Garbage burning is associated with the production of dioxin, a human carcinogen and endocrine disrupter. According to the U.S. EPA, burn barrels are the top source of dioxin in the United States. For more information about managing waste, see the [Living Green section of the MPCA website](#).

MPCA accepting proposals for Clean Water funding

The MPCA recently opened a round of funding for the state Clean Water Partnership Program and the Clean Water Fund. The agency will accept proposals through July 3 for grants and loans supporting control of nonpoint source pollution, which is pollution from indirect sources such as runoff from cropland and developed areas. The MPCA anticipates that about \$1.1 million of grant funds and about \$7 million of loan funds will be available this year. At least \$2 million of the loan funds will be set aside for Green Infrastructure Reserve. These proposals provide permanent stormwater treatment by preserving or restoring the site's natural hydrologic processes through green infrastructure projects such as rain gardens and parking lot redesigns. Eligible applicants include tribes, townships, cities, counties, watershed districts, watershed management organizations, soil and water conservation districts, and joint powers board with township, city or county members. Application details are available on the [MPCA website](#). The funding program dates back to 1987 when the Minnesota Legislature created the program to focus on indirect sources of pollution through watershed management to protect and improve surface and groundwater in Minnesota.

ARTICLES

[Climate disruptions already bringing extreme heat, drought, downpours to Midwest](#)

Ron Meador, May 7, MinnPost

Climate change, once considered an issue for a distant future, has moved firmly into the present. Corn producers in Iowa, oyster growers in Washington State, and maple syrup producers in Vermont are all observing climate-related changes that are outside of recent experience. So, too, are coastal planners in Florida, water managers in the arid Southwest, city dwellers from Phoenix to New York, and Native Peoples on tribal lands from Louisiana and Alaska.

[What to do with St. Paul's Ford site: Lots of fuzzy ideas, but no plan](#)

Marlys Harris, May 9, MinnPost

One can get really impatient at those frequently held conclaves purporting to discuss "what to do about X." For "X," you can substitute just about anything – campaign finance, anorexia nervosa, bank lending practices – but such conversations often skim the surface, piling on alternative after alternative until dizziness overwhelms. Under considerations was what should be done with another "X" – the now nearly empty site of the Ford Motor plant in St. Paul's Highland Park neighborhood.

[The White House \(finally\) goes solar](#)

Lesley Clark, May 9, McClatchyDC

The White House is on the solar grid, President Barack Obama will announce today – nearly four years after then – Energy Secretary Steven Chu pledged that solar panels and a solar water heater would be installed on the White House roof.

[A Minnesotan's guide to climate change](#)

May 9, Star Tribune

You say you don't believe in "global warming" after the winter Minnesota just endured?

[Pesticides, not mites, cause honeybee colony collapse](#)

Gemma Tarlach, May 9, Discover

Researchers racing to find the cause of Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD), which has been killing off honeybees in much of the US and Europe, are zeroing in on the culprit. And – surprise – mites are apparently no longer suspects. But cold winters may be accomplices to the crime.

[Grant bee whisperer does his part to reverse die-off](#)

Bob Shaw, May 10, Pioneer Press

In Jerry Linser's apiary rehab clinic, he holds one of his clients between his fingers. "I know where you've been," murmurs Linser to a honeybee, as he gently lifts it to the bees screen around his faces. "You have a honey-tummy full of stuff, I can see it."

[Grey wolf appears in Iowa for first time in 89 years – and is shot dead](#)

Jeremy Mongabay, May 12, the guardian

DNA testing has confirmed that an animal shot in February in Iowa's Buchanan County was in fact a wolf, according to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. This is the first confirmed grey wolf (*Canis lupus*) in the US state since 1925.

[Hearing today on Mpls. proposed takeout container ban](#) (with audio)

Curtis Gilbert, May 12, MPR News

Minneapolis residents with opinions on whether the city should ban plastic foam cups and takeout containers will have a chance to weigh in today on the issue.

[The ghosts of Minneopa – where bison may soon graze again](#)

Nicole Helget, May 12, MinnPost

[Map: Aquatic invasive species spread across Minn.](#)

Nathaniel Minor, MPR News

My daughter Violette and I just walked the Minneopa prairie. Later this summer, bison, the heaviest of North American land mammals, may once again graze these grasses, cultivate the soil with their hooves, and scrub their winter hides against boulders. The DNR is current reviewing the proposal to introduce 40 bison into Minneopa State Park, 5 miles west of Mankato, where they once thrived and thundered wild in great numbers before white settlement.

Invasive species like Eurasian watermilfoil and zebra mussels can choke our lakes and kill off native plants and animals. They have been moving through Minnesota lakes and rivers steadily over the last few decades. Use this map to track their spread.

EVENTS

May 12 - May 18

Wetland Restoration Area Identification Workshop

Tuesday, May 13, 2014 @ 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Location: MnDOT Training Center, 3725 12th St. N., St. Cloud, MN

Brief Description: Resource managers now have an online tool for identifying potential areas for wetland restoration. The MPCA contracted with the Natural Resource Research Institute (NRRRI) to develop this wetland restoration prioritization tool. Wetlands retain water and provide a critical reduction in several pollutants. The goal of the new tool is to help watershed professionals target wetland areas for effective watershed restoration and protection. Training workshops have been scheduled to help watershed managers and wetland restoration practitioners get the most from this new online tool. Space is limited so reserve your spot. There will be other opportunities available:

- May 20: MnDOT Training and Conference Facility, 1900 County Road West, Shoreview, MN
- May 21: Ottertail Power Community Room, 216 S. Cascade St., Fergus Falls, MN

There is no fee to attend the workshops, but lunch is on your own. To register email or call [Laura Dickison](mailto:laura.dickison@mnpca.org) 651-757-2689 at MPCA

For more information on the [Wetland Prioritization Tool click here.](#)

Forum: Climate Justice NOW -- Its out Time to Act

Thursday, May 15, 2014 @ 6-8:30 p.m.

Location: Kwanzaa Community Church, Minneapolis, MN

Brief Description: Join Green For All and The Sierra Club for a community forum to discuss how communities of color are affected by climate change. At this forum you can learn how local climate change leaders are working to make the Twin Cities cleaner, healthier, and more resilient. You can also take action on national climate initiatives underway that will affect your community! The forum moderator is Congressman Keith Ellison. There will be live spoken word and recording arts performances. For more information, contact [Karen Monahan](#) or [Kim Noble](#).

Bird Banding

Saturday, May 17, 2014 @ 7 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Location: Minneopa State Park

Brief Description: The public is welcome to watch and ask questions at the annual bird banding event. Spring migration should be in full force and this will give people an up-close of some of the birds that make Minneopa their home. Merrill Fryendall of the Friends of Minneopa State Park will be leading the bird banding event. Dr. Fryendale is a retired biology professor from Minnesota State University, Mankato and has been maintaining and documenting 50 blue bird houses at the park for over 30 years. Meet at the Group Campground Area.

For more information contact [Scott Kudelka](#) (507) 384-8890.

Sakatah Singing Hills Bike Ride

Saturday, May 17, 2014 @ 10 a.m.

Location: Sakatah Lake State Park

Brief Description: Let's go for a bike ride on the Sakatah Singing Hills State Trail. Minneopa Area Naturalist Scott Kudelka will lead the 10-mile round trip to Morristown from Sakatah Lake State Park. We will meet at the boat ramp along the lakeshore at Sakatah Lake State Park. Please bring along water and appropriate clothing for the weather conditions. On the route we will stop a number of times to take in the scenery and talk about a number of topics including water quality issues, the natural environment and historical features. This will be a leisurely bike ride that should last around three hours.

For more information contact [Scott Kudelka](#) (507) 384-8890.

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

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

Location: St. Julien Cox House

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.

Aqua per Capita

Saturday, May 17, 2014 @ 1-4 p.m.

Location: Bloomington Theatre and Art Center Amphitheater

Brief Description: Aqua per Capita is an outdoor, interactive theater experience that explores the relationship of population to water use and carrying capacity. The event explores water per person (aqua per capita) through playful interactions with water involving collecting, carrying, pouring, balancing, pumping, spraying dividing and sharing. While playful, Aqua per Capita aims to address serious issues by building empathy and understanding through firsthand, social, physical and sensory experience. Resources for learning and acting on local and global population and water issues will be provided.

For more information contact [Rachel Daly Flentje](#) 952-563-8570.

Spring Wildflower Hike

Saturday, May 17, 2014 @ 2 p.m.

Location: Minneopa State Park

Brief Description: This is a wonderful time of the year to go for a hike through the woods to see what types of wildflowers are beginning to bloom. We should be able to see a wide variety starting to pop up including Bloodroot, Columbine, Dutchman's breeches and Jack-in-the-Pulpit. In addition, we will check out the prairie to see if we can find some of the earlier plants like Prairie Smoke and Golden Alexander. Please meet at the Picnic Shelter on the Waterfalls Area.

For more information contact [Scott Kudelka](#) (507) 384-8890.

Digital Photography

Saturday, May 17, 2014 @ 4 p.m.

Location: Minneopa State Park

Brief Description: Photography is a great way to take some memories home with you after your visit to a state park. Kids will get a chance to learn how to use a digital camera and shoot photos of what interests them. Digital cameras are provided and the kids will be able to print one photo to take with them. Limit of 20 kids (must be 8 years of age and children must be accompanied by an adult). Please sign up at the park office (prior reservation required). Meet at the Shelter on the Waterfalls Area.

For more information contact [Scott Kudelka](#) (507) 384-8890.

Minnesota Riverboats

Sunday, May 18, 2014 @ 1-4 p.m.

Location: Harkin Store

Brief Description: West Newton, the village where Alexander Harkin started his general store in the 1870's will be having a Sunday program about riverboats that went up and down the Minnesota River. There will be displays and information of the boats. The riverboat, West Newton, was one of the first boats up the river. The West Newton town dock was the last dock that the riverboats could come to regularly and its was busy until the boats stopped. Come find out why!

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

**May 19 -
May 25**

2014 Minnesota State Envirothon

Monday, May 19, 2014

Location: St. John's Arboretum, Collegeville, MN

Brief Description: The Envirothon, an outdoor learning for high school students in grades 9-12, is one of the state's largest environmental education competitions. Teams consisting of 5 students from the same school/organization visit 6 different learning stations covering Aquatics, Forestry, Soils, Wildlife, and a current environmental topic that changes every year. Students are given a 25-point exam relating to the station's topics. At the sixth station, the students are required to give a brief (8-9 minute) pre-determined oral presentation to a panel of judges, also based on the current environmental topic for the year. Natural resource professionals from across the state are presenters at each of the stations. They use the outdoor setting, as well as their own props to add to the experience.

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

Wetland Restoration Area Identification Workshop

Tuesday, May 20, 2014 @ 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Location: MnDOT Training and Conference Facility, 1900 County Road West, Shoreview, MN

Brief Description: Resource managers now have an online tool for identifying potential areas for wetland restoration. The MPCA contracted with the Natural Resource Research Institute (NRRRI) to develop this wetland restoration prioritization tool. Wetlands retain water and provide a critical reduction in several pollutants. The goal of the new tool is to help watershed professionals target wetland areas for effective watershed restoration and protection. Training workshops have been scheduled to help watershed managers and wetland restoration practitioners get the most from this new online tool. Space is limited so reserve your spot. There will be other opportunities available:

- May 21: Ottertail Power Community Room, 216 S. Cascade St., Fergus Falls, MN

There is no fee to attend the workshops, but lunch is on your own. To register email or call [Laura Dickison](#) 651-757-2689 at MPCA

For more information on the [Wetland Prioritization Tool click here](#).

Wetland Restoration Area Identification Workshop

Wednesday, May 21, 2014 @ 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Location: Ottertail Power Community Room, 216 S. Cascade St., Fergus Falls, MN

Brief Description: Resource managers now have an online tool for identifying potential areas for wetland restoration. The MPCA contracted with the Natural Resource Research Institute (NRRRI) to develop this wetland restoration prioritization tool. Wetlands retain water and provide a critical reduction in several pollutants. The goal of the new tool is to help watershed professionals target wetland areas for effective watershed restoration and protection. Training workshops have been scheduled to help watershed managers and wetland restoration practitioners get the most from this new online tool. Space is limited so reserve your spot. There will be other opportunities available:

There is no fee to attend the workshops, but lunch is on your own. To register email or call [Laura Dickison](#) 651-757-2689 at MPCA

For more information on the [Wetland Prioritization Tool click here](#).

Triclosan & Public Health: Perceptions and Educational Recommendations

Thursday, May 22, 2014 @ 9-10:30 a.m.

Location: Minnesota Department of Health, St. Paul

Brief Description: As you know, triclosan is an antimicrobial chemical that is commonly used in soaps, toothpastes, and clean products that are often labeled "antibacterial" or "antimicrobial." A recent MDH grant provided funding for research on public beliefs and attitudes about the value and use of triclosan and other antibacterial compounds used in personal care products. Please join the MDH, Action Media, and Friends of the Mississippi River for an innovative workshop on the fascinating results of this research, and the education and public

outreach recommendations resulting from this work. This event is free and there will be coffee and treats! Directions and parking are [here](#). Space is limited so please RSVP to [Katie Nyquist](#).

Swan Lake Presentation

Friday, May 23, 2014 @ 7 p.m.

Location: Flandrau State Park, New Ulm, MN

Brief Description: North America's largest wetland complex is located north of the Minnesota River near Nicollet and considered one of the most important breeding and migratory stopover for a diverse selection of birds. In this presentation we will talk about the rich history of Swan Lake and the struggle to save this valuable resource. Over the years it has faced many challenges including a petition to drain it for agricultural purposes and a significant decrease in the production of waterfowl. Meet at the playground at the Day Use Area near the swimming pond.

For more information contact [Scott Kudelka](#) (507) 384-8890.

Minnesota River Paddle

Saturday, May 24, 2014 @ 10 a.m.

Location: Minneopa State Park, Mankato, MN

Brief Description: Go for a 10 mile paddle on the Minnesota River from the Judson access point to the Land of Memories Park. On this stretch of the Minnesota River we will be paddling along the boundary for Minneopa State Park. We will lead the paddle and provide the canoes, life jackets and paddles. You will need to provide your own transportation to the put-in and take-out point. The Minnesota River flows for 335 miles from Big Stone Lake to the confluence with the Mississippi River near Fort Snelling. Please sign up at the park office (prior reservation required). Meet at the Judson Boat Access Point.

For more information contact [Scott Kudelka](#) (507) 384-8890.

Water Art Installations

Saturday, May 24, 2014 @ 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Location: Maplewood Mall, Maplewood, MN

Brief Description: Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District invites the public to celebrate two new public art installations - *Water is Life* and *Rainy Day*. These two outdoor public artworks highlight themes about the interactions between water, nature and the built environment. The festivities will begin at the mall's west entrance with the unveiling of the interactive sculpture *Water is Life*. A procession will then weave through the mall to the east entrance for a ceremony to honor the completion of the mural, *Rainy Day*. Performances and poetry created by local students will round out the celebration. A reception with the artists follows.

For more information contact [Sage Passi](#) (612) 598-9163.

Causes of the US Dakota War and Battlefield Tour

Saturday, May 24, 2014 @ 1 p.m.

Location: Fort Ridgely State Park

Brief Description: The causes of the US Dakota War in 1862 were many and

complicated. Independent Historian John LaBatte will examine these. At least nine of John's Dakota and white ancestors were involved in the US Dakota War of 1862. Historic Fort Ridgely is recognized by the National Park Service as a National Battlefield and is listed twice on the National Registry of Historic Places. Join John LaBatte for the 1 p.m. program and again for the 2:30 p.m. battlefield tour. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for seniors, students with ID, and children ages 6-17. MNHS and NCHS members are free. A State Park vehicle sticker is required for all.

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

River Otter Ecology

Saturday, May 24, 2014 @ 7 p.m.

Location: Minneopa State Park

Brief Description: This social mammal is known for its child-like personality and often appears to spend time playing. After a significant decline due to hunting, trapping and loss of habitat the otter population is beginning to make a comeback in the Minnesota River Basin. We will learn about some of the special characteristics of a river otter and what this animal tells us about the quality of our rivers, lakes and wetlands. One lucky person will get the chance to dress like an otter! Meet at the group campground.

For more information contact [Scott Kudelka](#) (507) 384-8890.

Night Hike

Saturday, May 24, 2014 @ 9 p.m.

Location: Minneopa State Park

Brief Description: Night presents a whole new world to most of us. Very few of us spend extended periods of time in the dark and some people may even become fearful of the night. As humans we are constantly trying to reduce the fun of being outside after dark. On the other hand, animals adapt their lives and themselves to the conditions of both day and night. On this hike we will learn how to use our five senses (sight, hearing, touch, taste, and smell) in the dark without using any artificial light. Meet at the parking lot on the gravel road about halfway to Seppmann Windmill on the north side and please no flashlights.

For more information contact [Scott Kudelka](#) (507) 384-8890.

Music for all Ages at the Harkin Store

Sunday, May 25, 2014 @ 1-4 p.m.

Location: Harkin Store

Brief Description: Musician, Bill Cagley, who plays "music for all ages" will be performing at the Harkin Store. Cagley sings and plays guitar, mandolin, banjo and harmonica. He has performed many years at the Harkin and at many other historical sites in Minnesota. He and his musical friend will be a delight to the young and young at heart. He will bring along his daughter to do some dances for us while he is playing. Come and listen to him from our porch or bring along a lawn chair. The admission will include the program and the tour of the store. The gift shop will be open the same hours as the store and has many books, toys, unique and hand crafted items. The Harkin will be open Saturday and Sunday and Memorial Day and Tuesdays to Sundays from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. in June, July, and August.

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

JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

WATERSHED COORDINATOR

Department	Heron Lake Watershed District
Closing Date	May 15, 2014
Location(s)	Heron Lake, MN
Who May Apply	All qualified job seekers
Responsibilities	<p>The goals of the Watershed Coordinator position are</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">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 and2. establish a framework that the local government can use to guide their involvement as the WFDNR Watershed Project progresses over the next four years. <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 WFDNR 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 Heron Lake WD's website.</p>

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Department	Brown County SWCD
Closing Date	May 19, 2014
Location(s)	Sleepy Eye, MN
Who May Apply	All qualified job seekers
Responsibilities	The Brown SWCD Administrative Assistant serves as a permanent full time employee

of the Brown Soil and Water Conservation District and will assist the Board of Supervisors in carrying out the administrative activities of a coordinated conservation program that involves local, state and federal programs. Assists landowners or citizens with general inquiries.

Duties:

- Drafts letters in behalf of the Board and Program Manager pertaining to issues involving the District.
- Types from drafts or verbal instructions for the Program Manager. Types/drafts reports, memoranda, contracts, news releases and other materials for the District.
- Maintains general and case files for the District.
- Receptionist for the Brown SWCD Office
- Receives and dispatches mail for the District
- Orders supplies, materials, and services as needed.
- Prepares the Annual District Budget, the Budget allocation request with documentation materials, and the District Annual Report. Coordinates and prepares the Annual Plan of Operation and the Annual Work Plan.
- Completes the Biennial Budget Request in cooperation with the Program Manager.
- Writes news releases on various District functions. Types releases for other staff.
- Responsible for all financial records required by the State and/or District bookkeeping system. This includes all receipts and disbursements of funds with Board approval. Balances all journals and accounts, completes monthly treasurer's reports, reconciles checkbook and prepares all reports required for District finances.
- Completes annual compliance reports for the MN Office of the State Auditor, PERA, and MCIT.
- Completes end of year financial reporting and end of year grant reporting.
- Responsible for grant reporting in the state's eLINK reporting system, including financial entries, project entries, mapping, pollution reduction indicators, and grant management.
- Maintains records and calculates reimbursements of Supervisor compensation and expenses.
- Assists with RIM easement acquisitions including landowner application documents, easement processing (including coordination with BWSR and title agents), and general landowner contact.
- Assists the Program Manager with spot check forms, correspondence, and organizing annual RIM and CREP easement spot checks.
- Completes change of ownership documentation for the RIM and CREP program as needed.
- Maintains spreadsheet databases for all RIM and CREP Easements as well as State Cost Share projects and grants.
- Assists with State Cost Share Contracts and Payment Vouchers
- Responsible for oversight of Brown County WCA agreement (including tracking expenses, tracking hours, maintaining records, and quarterly billing) Page 3 of 3
- Assists the Program Manager with records regarding the tree program and State Cost Share program.
- Handles tree billing and customer contact upon tree arrival.
- Assists with tree ordering and contact with the nursery.
- Tracks and submits state sales tax annually.
- Prepares the annual newsletter in cooperation with the Program Manager.

- Completes data entry, filing, mailings, and updates to the website for the Rain Gauge Program on a monthly basis.
- Completes monthly data entry and monthly mailings for the Water Table and Well Reading Program.
- Prepares agendas, data and correspondence for the District Board Meetings.
- Submits grant applications prepared cooperatively with others.
- Attends all Board meetings, takes minutes, and later completes secretary's report.
- Keeps website up to date on all current district events and programs. Website is updated almost on a daily basis.
- Keeps website in compliance with state grants, which includes keeping all up to date meeting announcements, minutes, board reports, grant summaries, and close out reports.
- Responsible for all payroll records for District staff including withholdings, payroll signature and completion of payroll reports for FICA, PERA, Unemployment, and all monthly, quarterly, and end of year Federal and State tax payments and reports.
- Maintains holiday, annual and sick leave records for District staff.
- Insures all deadlines and requirements are met for District projects and reports.
- Coordinates various educational programs.
- Assists with RCRC and GBERBA projects affecting Brown County.
- Attends meetings, webinars, and trainings to keep up to date on changing and new programs and operations.
- The Office Administrative Assistant is directly responsible to the elected Brown SWCD Board of Supervisors.

For more information and how to apply visit the [Brown County SWCD website](#).

WATONWAN WATERSHED TECHNICIAN	
Department	Cottonwood County SWCD
Closing Date	May 19, 2014
Location(s)	Windom, MN
Who May Apply	All qualified job seekers
Responsibilities	The person serving as the Watonwan Watershed Technician will work with the GBERBA Watonwan Watershed member Counties and SWCDs to expand outreach to watershed residents and to administer conservation practice targeting programs in the Watonwan River Basin Watershed. The area covered by member counties will contain multiple geographic locales and various working conditions.
	For more information and how to apply check out the job announcement .

CONSERVATION GIS TECHNICIAN	
Department	South Central - Technical Service Area
Closing Date	May 23, 2014
Location(s)	Mankato, MN

Who May Apply	All qualified job seekers
Responsibilities	<p>This position will provide Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs), South Central Technical Service Area (SCTSA) and other local organizations in our area a better ability to utilize available GIS information for conservation planning and implementation. This position will work with professionals in technology, engineering, hydrology, and other natural resource managers to support local planning, targeting, prioritizing, implementing and monitoring of Best Management Practices (BMPs).</p> <p>Primary Responsibilities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use GIS tools to obtain design data for SCTSA and SWCD projects. This involves using GIS tools to create watersheds, models, and terrain analysis in order to recommend best management practices. 2. Work with SWCDs to produce and maintain a variety of GIS databases. This information will be used by SWCDs for planning, targeting, prioritizing and implementing best management practices. 3. Be available to coordinate and conduct user training classes; develop training materials and manuals; respond to and resolve user inquiries; develop and maintain user documentation; and work with a variety of systems and settings to bring multiple users to the same level for planning and implementation. 4. Examine existing GIS systems and workflows and create and modify workflows to accelerate the design and implementation of ecological and structural best management practices addressing water quality. Prepare and present proposals for new approaches and system options to meet SWCD user needs. Test and revise existing programs and interfaces to ensure efficiency and accuracy. 5. Assist SCTSA BMP design team in the collection of field survey data, preparation of design concepts, construction site plans and oversight of construction projects as needed. <p>For more information and how to apply check out the job announcement.</p>

COUNTY FEEDLOT OFFICER	
Department	Todd County SWCD
Closing Date	May 30, 2014
Location(s)	Long Prairie, MN
Who May Apply	All qualified job seekers
Responsibilities	<p>Todd Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is seeking a highly motivated professional to serve as Feedlot Officer. The position ensures that Minnesota Feedlot Rules and county ordinances are followed for feedlots throughout Todd County. Work activities will include field site visits, completing feedlot registration, feedlot inspection, preparing construction short forms, developing solutions to problem areas, and providing information to landowners and the public related to feedlots. Develops and follows an annual work plan acceptable to Todd County and MPCA. Must maintain relations with and work closely with MPCA, Todd Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisors, Planning and Zoning, County Board of Commissioners and the county livestock committee, BWSR, MN DNR, and USDA staff on joint projects and activities. Overall supervision received from SWCD Director.</p>

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

SENIOR MANAGER

Department	Agriculture and Environment Program, Environmental Initiative
Closing Date	Open until filled
Location(s)	Minneapolis, MN
Who May Apply	All qualified job seekers
Responsibilities	<p>This is a management-level position with primary responsibility for designing and leading projects related to agriculture and the environment. The senior manager plans, executes and evaluates key projects, and provides support to other Environmental Initiative projects. They will also work with staff internally to develop and implement organizational strategy.</p> <p>The senior manager reports to Environmental Initiative's associate director of environmental projects. The senior manager will work with Environmental Initiative's executive director to plan and fund new projects related to agriculture and the environment, and to establish an ongoing program focused in this area. The position includes responsibility for project development, design and fundraising. The senior manager will work closely with both Environmental Initiative staff and external partners representing agriculture stakeholders, other nonprofits state and local government, academia, and other members of the private sector.</p> <p>The initial focus of the position will be leadership of the Responsible Crop Certificate project. This project is on the cutting edge of developing markets to support practices in agriculture that will keep our waters clean while helping farmers prosper. The project will advance the conceptual development of a tradable certificate system that would provide a cost-effective, market-based means for large numbers of conventional farmers to improve their environmental performance. This will be achieved, in the current phase of the project, through watershed-based pilot activities, market assessment, and brand development.</p> <p>For more information and how to apply check out the job announcement.</p>

EDUCATION MANAGER

Department	Minnehaha Creek Watershed District
Closing Date	Open until filled
Location(s)	Minnetonka, MN
Who May Apply	All qualified job seekers
Responsibilities	<p>Performs intermediate administrative work planning, developing, and implementing education and outreach programs for internal and external audiences, designed to meet audience needs and build capacity around water resource management to enhance and protect the water quality within the Minnehaha Creek watershed. Work is performed under the general direction of the Communications Director.</p> <p>Essential Job Functions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop education programs for priority audiences to increase competency in and build capacity for water quality enhancement and protection (technical

trainings, workshops for citizens and elected officials)

- Facilitate meetings
- Identify strategies for delivery
- Coordinate content experts
- Handle program logistics

Other responsibilities:

- Oversee administration of the Cynthia Krieg Watershed Stewardship Fund
- Develop annual work plans and budgets
- Manage contracts, invoices and consultant services
- Develop and maintain positive working relationships and seek partnerships for educational programs with external education activities that support District projects, studies and programs
- Serve as staff liaison to the MCWD Citizen Advisory Committee.

For more information and how to apply go to the [Minnehaha Creek Watershed District website](#).

***"The power of imagination makes us infinite."
- 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.
