

# Minnesota River Weekly Update

May 16, 2017



Minnesota River Valley

Photo Credit: [Explore Minnesota Tourism](#)

## Announcements

### Minnesota River Congress May 18 on 'State of the River'

MPCA

The Minnesota River Congress Action Board , Organizer of 8th Minnesota River Congress

The State of the River - past, present, and future, headlines the eighth Minnesota River Congress May 18 at the Redwood Falls Community Center. Everyone who cares about an inclusive, citizen-led Minnesota River improvement effort is welcome to attend. The Congress starts with a 'networking fair' 4:30-6 p.m. with exhibits and short presentations from organizations. Following a 6 p.m. meal, opening remarks at 6:30 p.m. will address Gov. Dayton's "25 by 25" goal, a 25 percent improvement of the state's waters by 2025. At 6:45 the State of the River will feature:

- History of progress in the Minnesota River Basin, Kim Musser, Water Resources Center, MSU, Mankato;

- Casein the Basin: What we have learned and what you need to know about water quality, pollutant sources, and delivery dynamics within the basin, Pat Baskfield, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency;
- Doing Our Part: Farmer panel, Warren Formo, moderator;
- Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program;
- Collaborative for Sediment Source Reduction, Karen Gran, UMD;
- Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance actions, Clark Lingbeek, Cottonwood SWCD;
- CREP history and its future in the Minnesota River Basin, John Jaschke, Board of Water and Soil Resources.

For more information click [here](#). To register online click [here](#).

### **Gov. Dayton vetoes awful environmental bill!**

Trevor Russell, May 12, 2017, Friends of Mississippi River

Friday, May 12, Gov. Mark Dayton vetoed a historically bad omnibus environment bill. It sought to give polluters the right to write their own environmental impact statements, slashed funding for environmental agencies and even prevented cities from banning plastic bags. The vetoed environmental budget bill sought to cut \$30 million in general fund support for environmental agencies, including the total elimination of general fund support for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. These cuts would come on top of expected federal cuts and despite a large state budget surplus. The bill sought to remove protections secured through Gov. Mark Dayton's 2015 buffer initiative, including:

- Removing roughly 70% of public waters from 50-foot buffer maps, greatly reducing buffer protections on 24,000 miles of public waters.
- Barring local enforcement by needlessly stripping counties and watershed districts' administrative penalty order authority.
- Delaying buffer deadlines by two years.
- Eliminating the buffer requirement unless 100% paid for by taxpayers.

Provisions in the bill would have allowed corporations to write their own Environmental Impact Statements. This provision would have exempted cities that build public water treatment facilities from upgrading their systems to comply with new clean water standards for 16 years. This unusual provision would have allowed cities to petition for a "re-review" of agency science used in virtually any proposed or final agency water management action. This provision would have required the DNR to issue a groundwater use permit to irrigators impacting calcareous fens (rare and sensitive groundwater-fed wetland ecosystems) in Pipestone County.

For more information click [here](#).

### **DNR study details character of rural Lower Minnesota River**

MPCA

A new study from the DNR provides a wide-ranging and in-depth look at the Lower Minnesota River watershed. The Watershed Characterization Report focuses on conditions in rural counties of the High Island Creek, Rush River, Sand Creek, and Le Sueur Creek watersheds. Significant channel alteration, drainage of wetlands, and changes in vegetative cover have compounded the naturally erosive nature of the Lower Minnesota River watershed. The resulting highly turbid streams create areas that lack habitat due to high sediment loads and channel succession processes. Increases in water storage, soil health, and perennial cover are restoration strategies that will help address the hydrologic changes. Due to the degree of incision and lack of floodplain connectivity that cause nearly every bank to be erosive in many of the streams, streambank stabilization practices are recommended mainly to protect infrastructure.

For more information, see the five-page summary and report [online](#) or contact Jon Lore, Mankato DNR office, (507)389-8804

[Comment period kicks off on Enbridge Line 3 pipeline review](#)

STEVE KARNOWSKI ,May 15, 2017, Associated Press

The Minnesota Department of Commerce kicked off a comment period Monday that will include 22 public meetings as it released a draft environmental review of Enbridge Energy's proposed replacement for its aging Line 3 crude oil pipeline across northern Minnesota. The draft environmental impact statement does not recommend Enbridge's preferred route or four alternative routes that were also studied

[U.S. Bank to stop financing pipeline construction](#)

MN 350, May 15, 2017

This April, U.S. Bank has become the first major bank in the United States to formally exclude gas and oil pipelines from their project financing. In addition to no longer providing "project financing for the construction of oil or natural gas pipelines," the bank has stated that relationships with their clients in the oil and gas industries will be subject to "enhanced due diligence processes."

[Stunning World War II museum among the attractions of Upper Minnesota River Valley](#)

John Reinan ,MAY 15, 2017,Star Tribune

A world-class collection of vintage military planes is the main draw at the Fagen Fighters WWII Museum in Granite Falls, Minn. The museum includes a World War II library with scholarly works, newspapers of the era and a shelf of biographies and autobiographies of veterans from the region, men such as Walter Benjamin of Pipestone, Charles "Ace" Parker of Hecla, S.D., and Horace Hansen of St. Paul.

[Modest license fee increase needed to sustain Minnesota's great fishing](#)

Saturday, May 13, 2017, the Pilot Independent

DNR is asking for a \$3 increase for an individual fishing license . What drives the fee increase are the decline in buying power due to increasing costs for pickup trucks, boats, trailers, motors and other equipment. While prices for products and services aren't fixed, fishing license fees have been the same since 2013.

[Plan to develop Minnesota River corridor available for review](#)

Tribune News, may 11, 2017

A plan that will guide Renville and Redwood counties as they promote recreational and economic opportunities in the Minnesota River Valley is now available for review. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources released the Minnesota River Valley Master Plan on Monday, and is taking public comments on it for 30 days. A public open house will also be held to receive written comments from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. June 8 in the Redwood Falls Public Library community room.

[Dakota Access pipeline leaked 84 gallons of oil in April](#)

The Associated Press · Bismarck, N.D. · May 11, 2017

The Dakota Access pipeline leaked 84 gallons of oil in South Dakota early last month, which an American Indian tribe says bolsters its argument that the pipeline jeopardizes its water supply and deserves further environmental review. The April 4 spill was relatively small and was quickly cleaned up, and it didn't threaten any waterways. The state's Department of Environment and Natural Resources posted a report in its website's searchable database, but it didn't take any other steps to announce it to the public, despite an ongoing lawsuit by four Sioux tribes seeking to shut down the pipeline.

[As the seed treatment market grows, so do pesticide concerns](#)

Dan Gunderson, May 10, 2017, MPR News

Many of the seeds being planted around Minnesota today are treated with chemicals to protect them as they grow. Syngenta, one of the top pesticide companies in the world and the

[GLOBAL WARMING REAL FOR COUNTY RESIDENTS](#)

Cole Perry, May 10, 2017, Mesabi Daily News

More than 70 percent of St. Louis County residents believe global warming is happening, according to a recent study performed by the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication. Yet the topic of climate change is rarely discussed

global leader in the treated seed market, has a seed research facility about an hour south of the Twin Cities near the tiny community of Stanton. The Environmental Protection Agency says insecticide exposure poses risk to bees and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture says all of the most widely used neonicotinoids are highly toxic to bees.

among county residents. The report found that only 33 percent of residents discuss climate change occasionally and 31 percent never introduce the topic into their communication.

**Solar energy coming to St. Peter**

*Deanna B. Narveson, May 10, 2017, Mankato free Press*

Pending approval from the St. Peter City Council, the city will start rolling out options this summer for residents to power their homes with solar energy thanks to a potential partnership with Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency. The city took steps this week toward the partnership program by approving the purchase of a small solar array to build in town to educate residents and promote alternative energy. St. Peter Public Works Director Pete Moulton said the solar panels' construction will start in June and wrap up in July.

**DNR goes into fishing opener with 25 enforcement positions unfilled**

*Eric Morken on May 10, 2017, DL-Online*

The DNR is asking for help from the state Legislature this session through an increase in license fees and a boost from the state's general fund. Two more conservation officers retired May 2, putting the number of vacant positions at 25 statewide, said District 3 supervisor Mike Shelden." If we had those stations filled, we'd have the same number of officers we had in 1952, which is a little bit of a shocker," Shelden said.

**Events**

**May 17- May 23**

**Buckthorn Removal Event**

May 12-26

**Location:** Minneopa State Park

**Brief Description:** Help Minneopa State Park fight invasive species by attending a buckthorn removal event. We need your assistance in this ongoing battle to maintain a healthy native ecosystem. Buckthorn is a shrub that first arrived in Minnesota during the mid-1800s with Euro-American settlers. It was brought over from Europe as a popular hedge shrub but proved to be very invasive in our native communities.

Minneopa will be sponsoring this event throughout the month of May on the following dates:

- May 19th (Friday) 9 to 11 a.m.
- May 26th (Friday) 9 to 11 a.m.

**\*\* previous events have passed\*\***

Please pre-register for this event by sending an email to [scott.kudelka@state.mn.us](mailto:scott.kudelka@state.mn.us) or calling [507-384-8890](tel:507-384-8890). Entrance to the state park will be free for volunteering to remove buckthorn. Meet at the Group Campground on the campground side of Minneopa State Park.

Please wear gloves, tear-resistant clothing, safety glasses, tick prevention, and sturdy boots. If you have your own loppers please bring them along. Beware that buckthorn has thorns and can be tough to get at.

**OneMPLS Live! Our Planet – Your Legacy**

May 18, 1-4 pm

**Location:** Nicollet Island Pavilion

**Brief Description:** Minnesota has an abundance of natural resources, and we all have a role to play in protecting them. Join The Minneapolis Foundation and our partners at the McKnight Foundation for a OneMpls Live! event: Our Planet – Your Legacy.



Join leading experts for an afternoon designed to introduce you to nonprofits that are creating green jobs, stewarding our water resources, reducing our carbon footprint or driving policy change. We'll connect you to community members who share your interests and make you aware of opportunities where you can make a real impact.

Space is limited and registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis.

The Nicollet Island Pavilion is located on Nicollet Island, just over the Hennepin Avenue bridge from downtown Minneapolis. There will be complimentary valet parking, but guests are encouraged to "go green" and carpool, bus (Route 11), bike or – weather permitting – walk!

For more information click [here](#).

**MINNESOTA RIVERBOATS**  
SUNDAY, MAY 21, 2017 1-4 PM

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 bringing supplies, settlers and grain back to St Paul. The West Newton docking area was a very busy until the boats stopped. Come find out WHY!!

The Harkin Store is open Saturdays and Sundays from 10 to 5 pm in May with programs from 1 to 4 pm. The programs are included with the admission to the store. The gift shop is open the same hours as the store and has many books, toys, hand crafted and unique items, also has 10 cent candy.

The store is located nine miles northwest of New Ulm on Nicollet County Road 21, or the bottom road, or nine miles east of Fort Ridgely.

For more information and scheduling of large tour groups contact the store on week ends at [1-507-354-8666](tel:1-507-354-8666) or Nicollet County Historical Society that operates the store at [1-507-934-2160](tel:1-507-934-2160).

**May 24-May 30**

**Mower Cover Crop Champion/Soil Health Team Tour**  
May 26, From 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

**Location:** Riverland Community College (Austin) east parking lot.

**Brief Description:** Cover Crop & Soil Health Day (May 26). Free event with lunch and bushing to 3 cover crop farms in Mower County from 9 am to 2 pm.

**AGENDA**

- 9:00 - 9:15 am - Registration
- 9:15 - 9:30 am - Introduction
- 9:30 - 9:45 am - Board Bus
- 9:45 - 10:45 am - Finnegan Farm
- 10: 45 -11:15 am - Board Bus
- 11:15 - 12: 15 am - Hamilton Farm
- 12:15 - 12: 45 pm - Board Bus
- 12:45 - 1:45 - Cotter Farm
- 1:45 - 2:00 - Board Bus

RSVP by May 22, 2017 to [tim.ruzek@mowerswcd.org](mailto:tim.ruzek@mowerswcd.org)

For more information go to <http://www.freebornswcd.org>

**Nature Craft Night**



May 26, 6pm

**Location:** New Nature Center

**Brief Description:** Families, couples, friends, and individuals alike are invited for a night of nature crafting fun! NNC staff will provide instruction and supplies as participants create projects centered around the environment. This is a great opportunity to bond with your family, meet new friends, and enjoy light-hearted conversation. Light snacks and beverages will be provided, or you can bring your own!

This month's activities include two frog themed crafts, Frog Bog beverages and a snack of popcorn and "flies" while enjoying the sounds of native frogs played over the speakers.

All materials will be provided, but there is a project fee (\$20 for members/\$25 for non-members, allowing for both art projects) due in order to secure materials. This fee is nonrefundable unless the NNC needs to cancel due to inclement weather or low participation.

Click here for more or to register go to <http://neycenter.org/rsvp/>

**May 31- June 7**

**Songs on the Lawn**

June 1, 11am-1pm

**Location:** Civic Center Plaza, Mankato

**Brief Description:** Songs on the Lawn now in its 14 year is truly a popular summer series featuring music, entertainment and local food. The series takes place every Thursday in June from 11 am - 1 pm at Civic Center Plaza in Mankato. 2017 Dates: June 1 - City Mouse (Classic Rock, Americana, Blues) June 8 - The Bad Companions (Rockabilly) June 15 - Sawyers Dream (70s Style Pop Rock) June 22 - The Whiskies (Acoustic Rock) June 29 - The Gentlemen's Anti-Temperance League (Swing Jazz) Admission is always FREE and FREE parking is available throughout the downtown area. Songs on the Lawn gives co-workers, friends and families from all around the region an opportunity to gather in the City Center to enjoy live music from area bands. Attendees can also purchase lunch and snacks sold by a variety of local vendors.

For more information click [here](#).

**Family Science**

June 3, All Day

**Location:** Ney Nature Center

**Brief Description:** Bring the whole family as we learn about science and try different experiments! Reservations required. \$3/member or \$5/non-member, All Ages (Youth under the age of 14 must attend with a registered adult.)

Saturday, June 3rd 12:30-2p: Pond Study - On June 3rd we will use different tools to search for critters in Frog Pond. Based on the species that we discover we will be able to learn more about the health of the ecosystem.

Saturday, June 24th 10-11:30a: Renewable Energy - On June 24th we will learn about renewable energy with hands-on projects focused on wind and solar power.

For more information click [here](#).

**Bird ID Hike**

June 3, 8-9:30am

**Location:** Ney Nature Center

**Brief Description:** Join a naturalist guide as we take a leisurely walk along some of the Nature Center trails in search of various bird species. A limited number of binoculars are available to borrow. Reservations required. Ages: 5+

For more information click [here](#).

## Job Announcements

### WATER RESOURCES TECHNICIAN OR SPECIALIST

<b>Department</b>	Yellow Medicine Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)
<b>Closing Date</b>	May 31, 4:30 pm
<b>Location(s)</b>	Yellow Medicine SWCD
<b>Who May Apply</b>	All qualified job seekers
<b>Responsibilities</b>	<p>Yellow Medicine Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is seeking a Water Resources Technician or Specialist. Generally, the position will support current staff with implementation of federal farm bill and state conservation programs, promote and implement conservation practices and spend time providing outreach to the priority areas of the Yellow Medicine River One Watershed One Plan. Travel around the SWCD work area, the watershed planning area and occasionally over-night, around Minnesota will be necessary.</p> <p>For more information contact SWCD office or click <a href="#">here</a>.</p>

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND OFFICE COORDINATOR

<b>Department</b>	Cannon River Watershed Partnership
<b>Closing Date</b>	May 26th 4:00pm on Friday
<b>Location(s)</b>	400 Washington St., Northfield, MN 55057
<b>Who May Apply</b>	All qualified job seekers
<b>Responsibilities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Coordinate CRWP's urban stormwater education and outreach efforts to include preparing for and leading adopt-a-drain efforts, rain garden workshops, storm drain stenciling, mailings, recruit volunteers, staff booths at educational and outdoor events, and other duties as per contracts and grants.</li> <li>● Coordinate CRWP's Annual Watershed Wide Cleanup to include recruiting site leaders, volunteers, supplies, and attending the event.</li> <li>● Coordinate CRWP's Master Water Steward program including recruiting participants, coordinating with Freshwater Society and teaching evening class sessions</li> <li>● Assist Executive Director to plan and carry out CRWP's fundraising and membership recruitment events such as Downstream Environmental Film Series and pursue other opportunities for new event partnerships</li> <li>● Write, develop, and coordinate production and distribution of communication pieces including newsletters, brochures, and event materials to be submitted for approval by the Executive Director prior to being released</li> <li>● Maintain, update, and work with program staff to create content for the website (<a href="http://www.crowp.net">www.crowp.net</a>)</li> <li>● Help build the organization's brand through marketing and communications efforts</li> <li>● Work collaboratively with other staff to create effective communications strategies and plans</li> </ul>

- Assist with creating and implementing media plans to include press releases, radio, etc.
- Develop content for and respond to social media including Facebook, blog posts, Twitter, etc.
- Collect and analyze metrics related to our marketing and outreach efforts
- Assist Executive Director as needed with fundraising activities, such as organizing mailings, setting appointments with donors, tracking fundraising appeal income, etc.
- Database maintenance: fundraising, recording, processing, and acknowledging membership renewals and gifts
- Some office maintenance (i.e. inventory and order supplies, equipment maintenance, etc.)
- Communicate with volunteers regarding available volunteer opportunities
- Other duties as assigned

For more information click [here](#).

### IT BUSINESS ANALYST

<i>Department</i>	Minnesota IT Services, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)
<i>Closing Date</i>	May 22
<i>Location(s)</i>	MN
<i>Who May Apply</i>	All qualified job seekers
<i>Responsibilities</i>	<p><b>**NOTE:</b> This position is temporary and includes full state fringe benefits; it is anticipated to last up to two (2) years.</p> <p>As an IT Business Analyst, you will perform business analysis functions using a set of tasks and techniques to successfully act as a liaison among stakeholders in order to understand the structure, policies and operations of an organization and to be able to recommend solutions that enable projects to be successful and goals to be met. In particular, this includes participating in requirements gathering sessions to analyze, define and document business processes, software requirements, data management systems, interface specifications and development of specifications for technology initiatives. You will also work as a liaison between IT and business representatives, analyzing business activities and presenting the findings for analysis of solutions to purchase, implement, or develop. This includes working with development team members by collaborating on the development, testing, deployment and adoption of solutions. In addition, you will be responsible for communicating and consulting with system user populations concerning system changes and implementation planning for changes and releases.</p> <p>For additional information about the application process, go to <a href="http://www.mn.gov/careers">http://www.mn.gov/careers</a>.</p> <p>If you have questions about the position, contact Amanda Johnson at <a href="mailto:amanda.l.johnson@state.mn.us">amanda.l.johnson@state.mn.us</a></p>

## Easement Acquisition Specialist

<i>Department</i>	The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR)
<i>Closing Date</i>	May 18
<i>Location(s)</i>	St. Paul
<i>Who May Apply</i>	All qualified job seekers
<i>Responsibilities</i>	<p>Successful candidates for this position will be directly participating in one of the largest private lands conservation efforts in Minnesota history. The new MN Conservation Reserve Enhancement program (CREP) will leverage federal CRP program dollars with the Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) Reserve program to permanently restore and protect 60,000 acres of marginal agricultural land for surface water quality, drinking and groundwater protection and wildlife habitat. You will be leaving a permanent legacy for future generations of Minnesotans.</p> <p>For more information and how to apply click <a href="#">here</a>.</p>

## DISTRICT MANAGER

<i>Department</i>	Ecological & Water Resources, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
<i>Closing Date</i>	May 17
<i>Location(s)</i>	Fergus Falls
<i>Who May Apply</i>	Open to all qualified job seeker
<i>Responsibilities</i>	<p>The position exists to supervise the implementation and integration of Ecological and Water Resources Division programs, activities, policies, budgets, and staff in the South District. This position provides leadership as a member of the Division's regional leadership team to develop and implement the Division's and Department's mission and vision.</p> <p>Primary responsibilities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Collaborate in the development and management of policies, programs, priorities, and processes of the Division and Department as a member of the Division's regional leadership team.</li><li>• Provide program direction, priority setting, work planning, and strategic leadership for Division programs within the District.</li><li>• Establish and maintain partnerships with external constituents and stakeholders.</li><li>• Provide leadership and supervision for Division District staff through direct and indirect reports.</li><li>• Direct and manage the District fiscal and administrative activities</li></ul> <p>If you have questions about the position, contact Nathan Kestner at <a href="mailto:nathan.kestner@state.mn.us">nathan.kestner@state.mn.us</a> or 218.308.2626.</p>

*“Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's needs, but not every man's greed.”*

— Mahatma Gandhi

Please register at the Minnesota River Watershed Alliance's bulletin board  
at <http://mail.mnsu.edu/mailman/listinfo/mrwa/>