

Leonard Binstock Receives Conservation Award

The conservation organization **Friends of the Minnesota Valley** has awarded **Leonard Binstock** The **Elaine Melott award** for citizen leadership in conservation. While as acting Executive Director of the Agricultural Drainage Management Coalition (ADMC) Binstock has been instrumental in the promotion of Conservation Drainage and more specifically Managed Drainage. Over the last 6 years in 18 regions and cities throughout the Minnesota River Watershed, he has helped to raise awareness as to the various benefits of controlled drainage. "Managing tile drainage on today's high production working lands is critical to the future of the Minnesota River Watershed" said Binstock. "We have the technology to take a better method of drainage into the future for the benefit of both producers and those who recreationally use and enjoy the river and its tributaries" he said.

Friends of the Minnesota Valley works to enhance and protect the natural resources of the Lower Minnesota River Watershed and the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Established in 1982, The Friends currently have over 1800 members. For more information on the Friends, please visit their website at <http://www.friendsofminnvalley.org>

MN DNR Cleanup Review

The Cleanup Review is the twice-yearly newsletter of the Minnesota DNR's [Adopt-a-River program](#). The newsletter began in spring of 1992 as the Cleanup Quarterly, and was renamed the Cleanup Review in 1998. It provides news, updates and information for those actively involved or interested in the physical cleanup of Minnesota's public waters, including lakes, rivers, ravines, ponds, ditches and wetlands.

Articles include topics of general interest concerning how solid waste accumulates in our waters, insight into historical attitudes about water, plants and animals likely to be seen around water, and recent reports of activity from participating member groups. The Cleanup Review is edited by a water recreation specialist assigned to the Adopt-a-River Program.

Winter Issue 2011: <http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/publications/adoptriver/winter2011.pdf>

Comments invited on proposed swine expansion in Steele County

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) invites comments on an Environmental Assessment Worksheet prepared for Matt Holland's proposed swine expansion in southwestern Steele County. Written comments must be received by the MPCA by 4:30 p.m. on Jan. 11, 2012.

Holland proposes to double his swine operation from 2,400 to 4,800 finishing hogs. He also maintains a beef herd of 20 cow/calf pairs on pasture. For the expansion, Holland plans to build a total confinement barn with a manure pit underneath. The feedlot is located in Berlin Township, 1.26 miles west of Ellendale.

After expansion, the feedlot would generate 1.9 million gallons of liquid manure a year. Holland plans to remove manure from the pits beneath the barns once a year in the fall for application to nearby cropland. The feedlot would have two manure-storage basins with a total storage capacity of 2.5 million gallons, reducing the likelihood of overflow or emergency applications during the winter.

Although the feedlot is surrounded by land zoned for agriculture, 41 homes are located within one mile of the feedlot and manure-application sites. The closest home is about one-third mile from the feedlot. Based on a computer modeling study, the MPCA expects the expanded feedlot to comply with state air-quality standards, with odors below levels usually considered unpleasant.

The proposed feedlot is located within two miles of five public water wells that serve the city of Ellendale and Beaver Lake Park. According to the worksheet, the Minnesota Department of Health expects no impact to drinking water quality as a result of the expansion. The health department is also aware of 38 domestic wells within two miles of the feedlot. Several domestic wells are located with 200 feet of the

manure-application sites. To prevent contamination of the well water, applicators must follow best management practices and setback requirements when applying manure to the fields.

With the expansion, the feedlot will use 6.1 million gallons of water from an on-site well every year, requiring a water appropriation permit from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

The Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) provides basic information about how a proposed project could affect the environment and helps determine whether an Environmental Impact Statement, a more comprehensive environmental review, is needed. Interested parties may comment on the EAW from Dec. 12, 2011 to Jan. 11, 2012.

Copies of the EAW are available at the MPCA St. Paul office, 520 Lafayette Road N.; the MPCA Rochester office, 18 Wood Lake Drive S.E.; and on the MPCA website at www.pca.state.mn.us

Send questions and comments on the Holland EAW to Charles Peterson, MPCA, 520 Lafayette Road N., Saint Paul MN 55155. Peterson can also be reached by phone at 651-757-2856 or email charles.peterson@state.mn.us.

In addition to the EAW, this project requires a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System/State Disposal System Permit. This permit requires plans for manure management, dead animal disposal, and odor control. This permit will also be available for comment through Jan. 11, 2012. Comments on this permit should be sent to Steven Schmidt, MPCA, 18 Wood Lake Drive S.E., Rochester, MN 55904, or steven.schmidt@state.mn.us.

Job Announcements:

River Protection Steward

Although it historically has been a vital, clean source of water to the Mississippi River, portions of the St. Croix basin recently have been found impaired for phosphorus and other pollutants. Rare landscapes and plant and animal communities are threatened by development pressures emanating from the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. Multi-jurisdictional conservation efforts are complex and lack focus specific to the St. Croix basin. While it was among the very first rivers to achieve federal "Wild and Scenic" designation, protections apply to only a thin corridor of land along a portion of the main stem and are woefully inadequate to protect the water quality and ecological integrity of the watershed.

This position will focus on the SCRA core function: *Improving water quality, recognizing its interconnection with land use*. The SCRA River Protection Steward will work in the entire St. Croix River Watershed. The St. Croix River watershed comprises 7,760 square miles, and encompasses 10 counties in Minnesota and 9 in Wisconsin, with the river itself forming the border between the two states for much of its length. This position will office in St. Croix Falls, WI. Extensive travel within the watershed is expected, and may include work in the field.

For a complete description of the River Protection Steward position and how to apply: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/scra.pdf>

Working Title: **Clean Water Outreach Spec**

Class/Option: PLANNER PRINCIPAL - STATE

Position: 00222600 Location: St. Paul

Bargaining Unit: MAPE

Employment Condition: Unlimited Full-time - 100%

FLSA Status: exemptadmin Temporary Position End Date:

Days of Work: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday Hours of work: 08:00 AM-04:30 PM

Work Area: Previous Incumbent: N/A

View at: https://statejobs.doer.state.mn.us/JobPosting/View?_posting=11DNR000639

Working Title: **Land Use Specialist**

Class/Option: PLANNER PRINCIPAL - STATE
Position: 00269430 Location: St. Paul
Bargaining Unit: MAPE
Employment Condition: Unlimited Full-time - 100%
FLSA Status: exemptpro Temporary Position End Date:
Days of Work: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday Hours of work: 08:00 AM-04:30 PM
Work Area: Previous Incumbent: N/A
View at: https://statejobs.doer.state.mn.us/JobPosting/View?_posting=11DNR000640

Grant Opportunities:

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant

The LCCMR has issued its 2012-2013 Request for Proposal (RFP) for funding from Minnesota's Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund beginning July 1, 2013. Proposals are being sought that provide multiple ecological and other public benefits in at least one of the following six areas:

1. The Reinvest in Minnesota program as provided in M.S. 84.95, Subd. 2.
2. Research that contributes to increasing the effectiveness of protecting or managing the state's environment or natural resources.
3. Collection and analysis of information that assists in developing the state's environmental and natural resources policies.
4. Enhancement of public education, awareness, and understanding necessary for the protection, conservation, restoration, and enhancement of air, land, water, forests, fish, wildlife, and other natural resources.
5. Capital projects for the preservation and protection of unique natural resources.
6. Activities that preserve or enhance fish, wildlife, land, air, water, and other natural resources that otherwise may be substantially impaired or destroyed in any area of the state.

Proposals responding to the 2012-2013 RFP are due Friday, April 6, 2012.

For additional information pertaining to the LCCMR's proposal and funding process, please http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/lccmr_rfp.pdf or visit <http://www.lccmr.leg.mn> and click on "2012-2013 Request for Proposal".

Anyone with a project idea consistent with the RFP may submit a proposal for consideration by the LCCMR. LCCMR staff are available to assist proposers, answer questions, or review and provide feedback on drafts of proposals. Proposers are encouraged to submit proposal drafts to help ensure proposals are focused, clear, and contain all necessary information. Drafts must be received by Monday, April 2, 2012 to allow adequate time for staff to review.

During Summer and Fall 2012, the LCCMR will be considering all proposals received in response to the 2012-2013 RFP and selecting projects to recommend to the 2013 Minnesota Legislature. Project funding does not become available until July 1, 2013.

If you have any questions, please contact LCCMR staff: 65 State Office Building; 100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155; Ph: 651-296-2406; Fax: 651-296-1321; Email: lccmr@lccmr.leg.mn; Web: <http://www.lccmr.leg.mn>

Connect with Minnesota's Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/MNENRTF>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/#!/mnenrtf>

Events:

December 15th (Thursday) is the **KK Berge building Open House** from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in Granite Falls (807 Prentice Street). This is a celebration honoring the 4-year effort to save and repurpose the KK Berge building along the Minnesota River. For more information, <http://www.curemnriver.org/>

January 5th (Thursday) is the **Showing of the documentary: Okie Noodling** at the Treaty Site History Center in St. Peter. For centuries, a unique breed of fishermen has been catching monster catfish with their bare hands in the rivers and lakes of Oklahoma. Today, the tradition of “noodling” still has Okie anglers hooked. Admission is free. Sponsored by St. Peter Public Schools, Nicollet County Historical Society, River Rock Coffee and St. Peter Food Co-op. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/documentaryfilmseries.pdf>. Please contact 507-934-2160 or jessica@nchsmn.org for details.

January 5th (Thursday) is the **Showing of the documentary; Green Fire** at the New Ulm Library (17 North Broadway Street) at 7:00 p.m. *Green Fire* is the first full-length, high definition documentary film ever made about legendary conservationist Aldo Leopold. The film explores Aldo Leopold’s life in the early part of the twentieth century and the many ways his land ethic idea continues to be applied all over the world today. Admission is free. Sponsored by the Many Rivers Chapter of The Prairie Enthusiast, Center for Rural Ministry and Earth Spirituality, and the Water Resources Center at Minnesota State University Mankato. For more information contact Kris Wiley, Assistant Director New Ulm Public Library, 507-359-8334 or kwiley@tds.lib.mn.us

January 17th (Tuesday) is the Minnesota River Watershed Alliance Quarterly Meeting from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Ridgewater College (2 Century Avenue SE) in Hutchinson. Sponsored by the Friends of the Minnesota Valley, the meeting begins at 6 p.m. with a social hour to give participants time to interact with each other along with sharing stories and concerns about what is happening in their part of the Minnesota River Basin. At 7 p.m., the formal part of the meeting starts, with the group striving to wrap up all discussion by 9 o’clock. For more information, <http://watershedalliance.blogspot.com/>

February 2nd (Thursday) is a **Showing of the documentary: River Revival – Working Together to Save the Minnesota River** at 7:00 p.m. at the New Ulm Public Library (17 North Broadway Street). “River Revival” tells the story of the Minnesota River Basin from its geological origins to the present day. Through the seasons and throughout the basin, the documentary examines the river’s many pollution problems and highlights the efforts of people from all walks of life – academics, farmers, natural resource professionals, anglers, homeowners, students, paddlers, politicians and citizen activists – to restore the river. John Hickman, Executive Producer of River Revival will be on hand to share his insights of making the documentary and answer questions. For more information contact Kris Wiley at 507-359-8334 or kwiley@tds.lib.mn.us

February 11th (Saturday) is the **Clean Up the River Environment (CURE) Annual Meeting** at the Hollywood Theater (Main Street) in Montevideo from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. (meal served at 6:30 p.m.). Speakers include Scott Sparlin, founder of the clean up the Minnesota River movement; Dennis Frederickson, DNR Region 4 Commissioner; and Jon Olson, Board of the directors of the Mississippi Market Food Co-Op in St. Paul. Malena Handeen will be joined by artists and musicians from throughout the state to put on a special show. Cost of the meeting is \$25 per person if you register by February 7th (includes local foods banquet, door prizes and entertainment). Cost of registration after February 7th will be \$30. To reserve a spot, mail in your reservations (117 South 1st Street; Montevideo, MN 56265), call Dixie Tilden at 1-877-269-2873 or email cure@cureriver.org. For more information, http://www.curemnriver.org/events.html#annual_meeting

Check out additional upcoming events and workshops on the Minnesota River Calendar at: <http://mrbdc.mnsu.edu/calendar>

[Environmental/Conservation Articles:](#)

KK Berge building Grand Opening (Granite Falls Advocate Tribune) - <http://www.granitefallsnews.com/entertainment/arts/x669903699/Its-a-keeper-KK-Berge-building-Grand-Opening-this-Thursday-Dec-15-4-00-8-00-p-m> - The grand opening will signify the end of a four year restoration effort.

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 Watershed.

Nature cannot be tricked or cheated. She will give up to you the object of your struggles only after you have paid her price. – Napoleon Hill

The Minnesota River Watershed Alliance (Watershed Alliance) is an organized network of citizens, public agencies, and private organizations dedicated to communicating the benefits of an ecology healthy Minnesota River Watershed to others and are actively working towards its improvement and protection. We meet four times a year and encourage landowners and recreational users of the river to be part of the effort. For more information on the Watershed Alliance:

<http://www.watershedalliance.blogspot.com>

Thanks,

Scott

Scott Kudelka
Watershed Assessment Specialist
Water Resources Center
184 Trafton Science Center S
Mankato, MN 56001
507-389-2304