

Feds declare snuffbox mussel to be endangered

by [Stephanie Hemphill](#), *Minnesota Public Radio* (February 14, 2012)

ST. PAUL, Minn. — A small mussel that's found in the St. Croix River and few other places has been declared endangered by the federal government. The snuffbox mussel has disappeared from 62 percent of the streams where it was historically found.

The survival of this native mussel — which can live for decades — is threatened by loss and degradation of habitat, due in part to pollution and sedimentation. Non-native zebra mussels are also a threat.

The National Park Service is raising snuffbox mussels and releasing them in the gorge area of Mississippi River Pool 2 in St. Paul, where water conditions have improved in recent years.

Citizens hope to block proposed quarry in W Minn.

Minnesota Public Radio (February 16, 2012)

CLINTON, Minn. (AP) — Citizens are organizing to try to block a proposed quarry on the western edge of Minnesota, fearing it will spoil a scenic landscape of rock outcroppings and prairie.

Strata Corporation of Grand Forks, N.D., wants to develop a 104-acre quarry adjacent to the Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge between Ortonville and Odessa. The quarry would be part of a 478-acre property that hosts nine species of rare and endangered plants, including ball cacti found nowhere else in Minnesota, the West Central Tribune of Willmar reported Thursday.

The area is also home to Clark Mastel, his family and their 400-head, beef cattle operation. He and other residents gathered in Clinton on Sunday to discuss plans for trying to persuade the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners to reject the conditional use permit Strata is seeking. "We've went to bed more than once with tears in our eyes worried about what is going to happen here," Mastel said.

To see the entire article, [Citizens hope to block proposed quarry in W Minn.](#)

[Big trouble in Big Stone County: Strata mining, Ortonville Township and House File 389](#) (TC Daily Planet). Vicki Oakes, chair of the Big Stone County Planning and Zoning Commission, wasn't happy with the 100 restless citizens seated in front of her at the board meeting on Thursday night in Clinton, Minnesota, population 449.

Western Minnesota Sierra Club Group to Meet

The western Minnesota Sierra Club group will meet on Saturday February 25 at 11am in Willmar. All interested members of the public are welcome. Activities will include discussion of local environmental issues, proposed outings through spring and summer, and carpooling to the March 10 Volunteer Leader training, as well as networking over potluck lunch. Depending on the weather, we may go hiking or skiing at a nearby park after the meeting, or we may view and discuss the controversial award-winning documentary "Troubled Waters."

The meeting place will be the lower level of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Willmar, 500 5th St SW. Please contact Kay Slama at slama@morris.umn.edu or 320-796-5871 if you want further information.

The Sierra Club North Star Chapter represents over 15,000 members across Minnesota. Inspired by nature, members work together to protect our communities and the planet. For over 40 years they have worked to preserve and protect Minnesota's environment through educational outings and volunteer activism. Visit the web site at www.northstar.sierraclub.org.

MPCA invites public comment on Minnesota River water quality report

St. Paul, Minn. -- The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) invites public comment on a water quality report covering 18 sections of the Minnesota River, including eight tributaries. The report, known as a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), focuses on turbid water caused primarily by sediment. The public comment period begins Feb. 27 and continues through April 27, 2012.

The Minnesota River flows 335 miles southeasterly from the Minnesota-South Dakota border to Mankato, and then northeasterly to its confluence with the Mississippi River near St. Paul. Native prairie and pothole wetlands once covered most of the river's 16,770-square-mile basin. Today it's a patchwork of farms sprinkled with areas of urban and industrial development, with its outlet in a growing metropolitan area.

Turbidity of water is caused by suspended and dissolved matter, such as clay, silt, organic matter, and algae. High turbidity results in poor water quality for aquatic habitat, industrial use, and human consumption and recreation. Sediment is the main cause of turbidity in the Minnesota River and its tributaries. Sediment sources include uplands, ravines, and stream banks and bluffs.

Turbidity-impaired sections include nine on the mainstem of the river from Lac Qui Parle Lake to the city of Jordan, and the lower parts of the Chippewa, Redwood, Cottonwood, Blue Earth, Yellow Medicine, Watonwan and Le Sueur rivers as well as Hawk Creek.

The TMDL report is part of a nationwide effort under the federal Clean Water Act to identify and clean up pollution in streams, rivers and lakes. Every two years, states are required to submit a list of impaired waters to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). A TMDL report is a scientific study that calculates the maximum amount of a pollutant a water body can receive (known as the "loading capacity") without exceeding water-quality standards.

After receiving public comments, the MPCA will revise the draft Minnesota River Turbidity TMDL and submit it to the EPA for approval. Following EPA approval, a plan will be developed to reduce turbidity through land-use practices that reduce the amount of sediment and nutrients entering lakes and streams. A citizen advisory committee, including farmers and technical experts, assisted in the development of the TMDL report.

The [draft Minnesota River Turbidity TMDL](#) is available on the MPCA website or at the agency's St. Paul office, 520 Lafayette Road N. Comments may be sent to Larry Gunderson, MPCA, 520 Lafayette Rd. N., Saint Paul, MN 55155. For more information, contact Gunderson at larry.gunderson@state.mn.us, phone 651-757-2400.

Written comments must include (1) a statement of your interest in the draft TMDL report; (2) a statement of the action you wish the MPCA to take, including specific references to sections of the draft TMDL that you believe should be changed; and (3) specific reasons supporting your position.

The public notice for the draft Minnesota River Turbidity TMDL is posted on the [MPCA Public Notice webpage](#). Also on public notice is the [draft South Metro Mississippi River TMDL](#), which addresses total suspended solids in the Mississippi, from its confluence with the Minnesota River at Fort Snelling to upper Lake Pepin at Red Wing.

More information on the state's impaired waters list and TMDL studies is available on the MPCA's [Impaired Waters and TMDLs webpage](#) or toll-free at 800-657-3864.

Why California Almonds Need North Dakota Flowers (And A Few Billion Bees)

By Dan Charles, National Public Radio

This is one of those stories that reminds us that everything really *is* connected to everything else. Here's the web of connections: a threat to California's booming almond business; hard times for honeybees in North Dakota; and high corn prices.

Confused? OK, let's start with the almonds. They come from an old-world tree that migrated to California and prospered in the hands of farmers like [James McFarlane](#), who lives right outside the city of Clovis.

"When I was a boy, they used to talk about how California's crop rivaled Spain's," says McFarlane. "Well, California crop left Spain's in the dust and didn't even look back."

In fact, it's one of the great success stories of California agriculture. Twenty years ago, the state produced a modest half-billion pounds of almonds each year. "We hit a billion pounds and it just never stopped. This past year it's the better part of 2 billion pounds," says McFarlane. The Central Valley of California actually grows two-thirds of all the almonds in the world.

For the entire story, <http://minnesota.publicradio.org/features/npr.php?id=146872577>

Meet with Terry Morrow and Kathy Brynaert on Environmental Issues

On February 24th (Friday) meet with Terry Morrow and Kathy Brynaert on environmental issues from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (pre-meeting discussion begins at 9:30 a.m.) in Mankato. Please RSVP by February 23rd to ericbergstrom@mepartnerhsip.org for meeting location.

Enjoying Minnesota's Great Outdoors is part of our way of life. Your state leaders have an opportunity to protect those resources today and for generations to come. Join the Minnesota Environmental Partnership, a coalition of environmental nonprofits, for a meeting with Rep. Morrow and Rep. Brynaert to discuss their work at the Capitol for Minnesota's environment. Topics include:

- Solar Works for Minnesota: Invest in clean energy to help our local economy and create jobs.
- Safeguarding investments: Make sure funding for our environment is secure, and that money from the voter-approved Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment is used properly.
- Defending Minnesota's Environmental Policy Foundation: Prevent rollbacks of our existing laws that protect our water and clean energy future.

Join us at 9:30am, before your legislators arrive, to learn more about the priorities selected by the 79 members of the Minnesota Environmental Partnership, discuss other issues of concern, and learn more about your legislators and fellow constituents.

This is an excellent opportunity to discuss these important issues with your Legislator.

Tatanka Bluffs Regional Stakeholders Meeting

come and join us at the Tatanka Bluffs regional stakeholders meeting in Olivia MN on March 16th from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon at the Renville County Government Center. Learn more about the new federal "America's Great Outdoors" initiative and the recent designation by the US Dept. of Interior that the Upper MN River Valley Watershed is going to be designated a national "Blue-way or Waterway" trail from Alice Hanley - USFWS. Also come and listen to Dennis Frederickson – DNR South Region Director and Cathi Fouchi DNR South Region Planner and hear what the DNR is up too in regards to the MN River Watershed and SW MN.

For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/regionalstakeholdersmeeting.pdf>

University of Minnesota Extension Offers Workshops for Small-farm and Acreage Owners

Do you have the dream of owning acreage in the country? Do you have an existing acreage that is need of a plan and strategies for the best possible results? The Living on the Land Workshop Series, offered by University of Minnesota Extension, will equip you with the education and resources to be successful.

The eight-week course is designed to arm landowners with agricultural information to enable them to be good stewards of their land. The course will begin with goal-setting and individual property inventory, then address soil, plant and water basics.

The Living on the Land curriculum addresses a growing need for information regarding small acreages. The series incorporates knowledge and experience from a team of instructors to address topics including:

what do you have and what do you want, what you can do with your land, water quality, protecting household drinking water, how plants grow, what to do about weeds, lawn and pasture maintenance, getting down and dirty with soils. The series also includes a farm tour.

The series will be taught by Extension educators and natural resource professionals at two locations. Both workshop series will be held on Thursday evenings from March 8 – April 26 from 6-9 p.m. One location will be in Hutchinson at the McLeod County Fairgrounds 4-H Café and the other location will be in Mankato at the Historic Courthouse in the Conference Room.

Early registration is \$175 until Friday, March 2 and all registrations received afterwards will be \$200. The registration fee includes participation of two people, for example a husband and wife team or two siblings, who may attend together and share materials. Benefits include useful educational publications, an educational farm tour and dinner, a site visit/consultation from a University of Minnesota Extension educator in your area, as well as the tools to help you succeed with your goals and dreams on your country acreage.

Register now because space is limited at each location. Contact Nathan Winter for a hard copy of the brochure and other questions regarding the Hutchinson location at 320-484-4303 or by email at wint0146@umn.edu. Contact Diane DeWitte at 507-304-4325 or by email at stouf002@umn.edu for more information on the Mankato location and registration questions.

View the 2012 Living on the Land Workshop Series Brochure at the following link:
<http://www.extension.umn.edu/county/McLeod/news/Living.On.The.Land.Brochure.2012.pdf>

Job Announcements:

Hydrologist 2

The Minnesota DNR is hiring a Hydrologist 2 to be located in Windom. This position exists to ensure sustainability of Southern Minnesota's Watersheds through regulatory, resource monitoring, outreach and technical assistance work. This position also completes work assignments that involve region-wide projects and policy.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Advanced degree in watershed management, forest hydrology, hydrology, or water resources management.
- Experience in water resource regulation and compliance.
- Professional and technical skills in field applications of surface water hydrology, stream classification and natural channel design.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in one of the following disciplines: Civil, Environmental, or Agricultural Engineering; Forest Hydrology; Geography; Geology; Geophysics; Hydrogeology; Hydrology; Natural Resources and Environmental Studies; Soil Science; Water Resources Management; including at least two courses in hydrology or hydrogeology.
- At least two years of increasingly responsible professional work experience in surface or ground water hydrology or related technical or regulatory work at the Hydrologist 1, 2, or equivalent professional level.
- Oral and written communication skills sufficient to maintain coordination with staff, create accurate records and field notes, and maintain relationships with clients and coworkers.
- Knowledge of Minnesota Water Law; Zoning; and Federal, State and Local Wetland Rules and Regulations.
- Familiarity with surface water flow measurements and land-water interactions.
- Project management experience including preparation of final reports and oral presentation of results. Some experience giving direction to others.

- GIS skills sufficient to prepare maps and to develop and manipulate land-use related data layers. Ability to work with paper maps and physical filing and record systems, as well as with computerized data management, word processing, and computerized communication.
- Experience with field-grade surveying.
- Ability to work safely and independently outdoors in sometimes adverse conditions.

For more information and to apply:

<https://statejobs.doer.state.mn.us/JobPosting/b4500e1f271e8acbfd81dc6364993a93/View>

On-farm Internship

Moonstone Farm is looking for someone interested in an internship in western Minnesota as part of a livestock on grass / Viticulture / permaculture operation for the Summer of 2012. This person will receive: *bunkhouse + board + monthly stipend*

***Join farm team in multi-species planting and care, with both native and adaptive species to foster a perennial polyculture.

***Learn fencing/trellising techniques, vineyard, paddock and grazing management.

***Prairie and woodland, crops and cattle, edible forest, human-scale and machine-assisted projects—different every day.

***Opportunity to integrate and apply strategies of permaculture design and holistic management.

***Access to library, river, beach, dynamic rural social network, music, art, local-organic livelihood and sustainable community.

To apply: moonstone@moonstonefarm.net; Richard Handeen & Audrey Arner at Moonstone; 9060 40th Street Southwest, Montevideo, Minnesota 56265 (320) 269-8971

For more information, www.moonstonefarm.net

Trail Staff, Internships and Urban Wilderness Boat Captains

Wilderness Inquiry is now accepting applications for Trail Staff, Internships, and Urban Wilderness Boat Captains for summer 2012. We're looking for people with outstanding leadership and decision-making skills, high energy, and a willingness to work hard.

If you know of someone who would be good and interested, could you please send them our way? They can apply for the positions by going to: www.wildernessinquiry.org/jobs

Please distribute the following announcement flyers as you see fit:

Trail Staff Flyer: <http://fmp.wildernessinquiry.org/doclib.php?doc=3028>

Internship Flyer: <http://fmp.wildernessinquiry.org/doclib.php?doc=5343>

Assistant Manager

Mill City Farmers Market is hiring! If you are interested in joining the team of early-risers, sustainable farming-enthusiasts, and die hard local food-fans, check out our posting for Assistant Manager.

The Mill City Farmers Market is a non-profit organization based in Minneapolis, in its seventh season. The Mill City Farmers Market brings together farmers, producers, food artisans, multi-cultural food traditions, celebrity chefs, authors, cooking demos, free food samples, recipes, kids' activities, farm animals, contests, festivals and live music to educate consumers about sustainable & organic agriculture and our regional farmers. We build connections and foster relationships between farmers, entrepreneurs and customers in a fun and lively environment. It is much more than a market. It is an experience enjoyed by over 5500 guests each market day. In addition we are actively involved in the community doing outreach to build a stronger, sustainable regional food system. The position along with the Market Manager oversees all of the day-to-day activities and logistics, year round, in planning and running the market. The Assistant Manager attends most Saturday markets along with weekly office hours to plan the market logistics, marketing and events.

Hours & Salary: This is a salaried 30 hr/wk position (hours vary seasonally), salary to commensurate with experience. Must be available to work most Saturdays May-October (5am-3pm).

Key Dates: Applications due by March 1st. Training late March and market opens May 12th.

For more information, contact: Cover letter, resume and 3 references should be emailed to: Martha Archer, Executive Director: Martha@millcityfarmersmarket.org

Feedlot Program Officers

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency feedlot program is in the process of seeking personnel for five vacancies in regional offices. Anyone interested in pursuing state agency employment can search for jobs and enter a resume' on the [State of Minnesota careers webpage](#)

These positions reviews animal feedlot permit applications for potential pollution hazards and compliance with agency rules and standards. Job duties include:

- Properly registering and/or permitting feedlots
- Working with owners and operators of feedlots to assist them in selecting and implementing proper designs and controls to abate potential pollution hazards
- Issuing permits when appropriate
- Provide assistance and training to counties participating in the agency's county feedlot program
- Enforce feedlot rules in an appropriate manner

Effective oral communication, written communication, computer and problem-solving skills. Requires the ability to perform field work, traversing uneven terrain in and around animal agriculture sites, constructed basins, and concrete pits.

Grant Opportunities:

Minnesota River Board 2012 Programs Grant

Hello Minnesota River Basin partners! The Minnesota River Board is pleased to release the 2012 Programs Grant application. Individual grants are available for up to \$3,000 and we have a total of \$9,000 available again this year. The application and details can be viewed under "Notices" at www.minnesotariver.org.

The application deadline is February 29, 2012. I've attached a list of previous grant recipients at the bottom of this message. I welcome you to contact me with any questions; Susan D.G. Carlin; Minnesota River Board; 135 Trafton Science Center South; Mankato, MN 56001; 507-389-6279

2011 Recipients:

1. Friends of the Minnesota Valley	Conservation Drainage Outreach Program	\$1,500
2. Redwood Soil & Water Conservation District	Community Engagement in the Pell Creek Watershed	\$1,000
3. Southwest Minnesota Association of Conservation District Employees, Area V	Educational Fair for Fifth and Sixth Graders	\$3,000
4. Scott County Clean Water Education Program	Turf Maintenance for Reduced Environmental Impacts	\$1,200
5. Rural Advantage	Our Environment Series: 2011	\$2,300

2010 Recipients:

1. Chippewa Soil & Water Conservation District	Chippewa SWCD Conservation Field Days	\$1,700
2. Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance	Testing Conservation Marketplace of Minnesota (CMM) in the Greater Blue Earth River Basin	\$3,000
3. Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River	Working Together for the Minnesota River	\$3,000
4. Clean Up the River Environment	Annual River and History Weekend & River Signage	\$1,300

Events:

February 22nd (Wednesday) is **Make Your Own Non-toxic Cleaning Products~!** starting at 6:00 p.m. at the Center for Earth Spirituality and Rural Ministry (170 Good Counsel Drive, Mankato). We will make our own all-purpose cleaner and laundry powder as have recipes for all cleaning jobs! (Bring your own re-usable spray bottle to fill and take home with you. Donations \$10-\$15 (More of you can, less if you can't). For more information contact Lisa Coons at 507-389-4272 or lcoons@ssndmankato.org

February 23rd (Thursday) to May 5th (Saturday) is a **Minnesota Master Naturalist course** in Willmar at the Mid-Central Research & Outreach Center (1700 Technology Drive). Experience the outdoors and watch this prairie grow and change while learning more about the prairies and potholes biome. Class sessions will include topics on grass, animals, water, humans, geology and more. Instructors are Amy Rager and Rob Blair. Class dates and times: Thursdays February 23rd through May 3rd tom 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Field Trips are Saturdays March 24th and April 21st. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/willmarclass.pdf>

February 25th (Saturday) is an **Artists Reception** for the "What Sustains Us: considering the hands and the land of rural south central Minnesota photography exhibit" by Kay Herbst Helms in the Lower Level Gallery at the Arts Center of Saint Peter (315 S Minnesota Avenue). The reception goes from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/helmsexhibit.pdf>

February 29th (Wednesday) is **Learn to Make Self-watering Grow Boxes** starting at 6:00 p.m. at the Center for Earth Spirituality and Rural Ministry (170 Good Counsel Drive, Mankato). Donations \$5-\$15 (more if you can, less if you can't). For more information contact Lisa Coons at 507-389-4272 or lcoons@ssndmankato.org

March 1st (Thursday) is a lecture in St. Paul on **Corporate Sustainability** by Mindy Lubber, president of a Boston nonprofit that leads and pressures corporations to become sustainable in the carbon they emit and the water they use. Sponsored by the Freshwater Society and the University of Minnesota College of Biological Sciences. To learn more and register: www.freshwater.org.

March 3rd (Saturday) is the **Snow Folk** at Earthrise Farm from 6:00 p.m. to whenever p.m. A gathering to celebrate Winter awakenings and homegrown harmonies. Music from The Strollers, Homemade Jam, Colleen and Emily, Carol Ford, Louis West, Jazz a' la Darwin and Jazz a' la Richard. Earthrise Farm is located at 2580 250th and for more information, 320-752-1700 or erfarm@hotmail.com

March 4th – 7th (Sunday – Wednesday) is the **Upper Midwest Stream Restoration Symposium** at the Holiday Inn Metrodome in Minneapolis sponsored by the Partnership for River Restoration and Science in the Upper Midwest. To register and for more information, <http://prsum.org/content/registration>. The registration deadline in January 27, 2012.

March 17th (Saturday) is **Kids Day** at Earthrise Farm & Education Center from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Join us for some Fun on the farm. Activities include Self-guided Farm Tours, Grow-Your-Own Green Clover (in recycled containers), DIY Sock Puppets and Seasonal Snacks. Earthrise Farm is located at 2580 250th and for more information, 320-752-1700 or erfarm@hotmail.com.

March 13th (Tuesday) join the **Scott Clean Water Education Program for a free presentation about Blue Thumb, Planting for Clean Water** at 6:15 pm the McColl Pond Environmental Learning Center in Savage. Become inspired to create landscaping features that work to keep our waters clean. See photos of past projects and learn about the benefits of creating a raingarden and stabilizing your lakeshore with native plants. After attending the presentation, you will be able to receive design and installation assistance with creating your beautiful Blue Thumb, Planting for Clean Water raingarden or native shoreline. Some residents may qualify for a grant to help offset the costs of the Blue Thumb project. Registration encouraged. Contact Dan at 952-492-5424 or dmiller@co.scott.mn.us to reserve your spot today!

March 15th (Thursday) join the **Scott Clean Water Education Program for a free presentation about Blue Thumb, Planting for Clean Water** at 6:15 pm at the Spring Lake Township Hall in Prior Lake. Become inspired to create landscaping features that work to keep our waters clean. See photos of past projects and learn about the benefits of creating a raingarden and stabilizing your lakeshore with native plants. After attending the presentation, you will be able to receive design and installation assistance with creating your beautiful Blue Thumb, Planting for Clean Water raingarden or native shoreline. Some residents may qualify for a grant to help offset the costs of the Blue Thumb project. Registration encouraged. Contact Dan at 952-492-5424 or dmiller@co.scott.mn.us to reserve your spot today!

March 19th (Monday) is the **Minnesota River Board Meeting from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon at the Knights of Columbus Hall (920 East 10th Street) in Fairmont. For information: 507-389-5491 or karnell.johnson@mnsu.edu**

March 28th (Wednesday) is the **Green Fire showing** at 7:00 p.m. at Belgrade Avenue United Methodist Church (325 Sherman Street) in North Mankato. This is a biographical film about seminal environmentalist Aldo Leopold. The program is sponsored by the Many Rivers Chapter of the Prairie Enthusiasts and the Mankato Paddling and Outings Club. For more information, contact Peggy at peggyk@hickorytech.net

March 29th (Thursday) is a **Conference on Precision Conservation**, the science and philosophy of putting conservation practices at the places on the landscape where they will do the most good in preventing erosion and improving water quality. NRCS Chief Dave White is keynote speaker. Sponsored by the Freshwater Society and a number of partners. To learn more and register: www.freshwater.org.

March 29th (Thursday) is the **Minnesota Soil and Water Conservation Society's annual meeting** in conjunction with the Freshwater Society's day-long conference: "Precision Conservation: Technology Redefining Local Water Quality Practices." Precision conservation effectively and efficiently targets scarce resources to the spots on the landscape where they will do the most good. Learn about the latest technology -- much of it based on LiDAR scanning -- that pinpoints "sweet spots" where runoff, erosion and pollution are disproportionately severe and the potential for improvement is disproportionately great. Speakers include NRCS Chief Dave White; Dr. David Mulla, University Soil Scientist and a pioneer in employing modern LiDAR-based technology in the service of conservation; Dr. Gerald Van Amburg, president of the Buffalo-Red River Watershed Board; and several other Minnesota expert conservationists sharing rural and urban examples. The event will be at Silverwood Park in St. Anthony, MN. Visit the Freshwater Society web site (<http://freshwater.org>) for a current agenda and registration information. The Chapter annual meeting will follow the conference.

May 21st (Monday) is the **Minnesota River Board Meeting from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon. Place and location to be announced. For information: 507-389-5491 or karnell.johnson@mnsu.edu**

[July 16th \(Monday\) is the **Minnesota River Board Meeting** from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon at the St. Peter Community Center, Room 219 \(600 South 5th Street\). For information: 507-389-5491 or \[karnell.johnson@mnsu.edu\]\(mailto:karnell.johnson@mnsu.edu\)](#)

[September 17th \(Monday\) is the **Minnesota River Board Meeting** from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon at the Health & Human Services Building Multipurpose Room \(2200 23rd Street NE\) in Willmar. For information: 507-389-5491 or \[karnell.johnson@mnsu.edu\]\(mailto:karnell.johnson@mnsu.edu\)](#)

[November 19th \(Monday\) is the **Minnesota River Board Meeting** from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon. Place and location to be announced. For information: 507-389-5491 or \[karnell.johnson@mnsu.edu\]\(mailto:karnell.johnson@mnsu.edu\)](#)

[Check out additional upcoming events and workshops on the Minnesota River Calendar at: http://mrfdc.mnsu.edu/calendar](http://mrfdc.mnsu.edu/calendar)

Environmental/Conservation Articles:

[Report shows Legacy Amendment's progress on clean water](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). A new [report](#) is giving Minnesotans a first look at how their tax dollars are helping improve water quality in the state.

[Don Shelby: Interfaith Power & Light seeks to protect our earth as creation of God](#) (MinnPost). I went to church on Sunday, and I sent a Valentine's Day card to a United States senator.

[Study: Minn. groundwater contamination levels low](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). A [new study](#) finds Minnesota groundwater is contaminated with low levels of chemicals, but the chemicals are not as widespread in groundwater as they are in lakes and streams.

[Report urges EPA to abandon proposed air pollution rule](#) (International Falls Journal). A group of conservation groups say the long-term health of national parks and other wild areas across the eastern United States, and of the communities that depend on them, could be in jeopardy if the Environmental Protection Agency exempts some of the oldest and highest polluting coal-fired power plants from installing the Best Available Retrofit Technology, known as BART.

[Blog: Urban farming program tackles Duluth "food desert"](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). Seeds of Success hires low-income Duluth residents to transform vacant urban lots into vegetable gardens.

[Bill streamlining MN environmental reviews advances at Capitol](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). A House committee on Wednesday approved a bill to streamline the environmental review and permitting process.

[What are zebra mussel-free waters worth?](#) (St. Paul Pioneer Press). There's one way to slow - really slow - the spread of invasive zebra mussels in their steady campaign to populate all of Minnesota's waters.

[LCCMR convenes for first time since Thornton firing, unfiring](#) (Outdoor News). The group that recommends how lawmakers should spend lottery revenues from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund met last week for the first time since the firing - then unfiring - of its executive director.

[Minneapolis revises its goals for sustainability](#) (Minnesota Daily). The city of Minneapolis recently revised its goals for becoming a more sustainable city.

[Save our streams, lakes, and rivers: Use less road salt](#) (Minnesota 2020). We give little thought to the costs associated with road salt.

[Fresh food from small farms: New guide helps consumers find a CSA](#) (MinnPost). If you've ever considered getting a share in a CSA farm but didn't know where to begin, here's a useful new resource.

[Tiling: The need runs deep](#) (Detroit Lakes Online). To help prevent erosion mainly in agricultural fields, landowners are turning to tiling more and more.

Water is the best of all things. Pindar, Olympian Odes

[Thanks,](#)

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[Scott](#)

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[Scott Kudelka](#)

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