

Minnesota River Watershed Alliance to meet on January 18th

Come out to Ridgewater College (Room 141) in Hutchinson on January 18th (Tuesday) for the quarterly Minnesota River Watershed Alliance meeting. We will be choosing the 2011 "Clean Up the Minnesota River" focus and need your input. Gather with like-minded river advocates as we welcome students from the Ridgewater Environmental Science Class to what is happening in the Minnesota River Basin.

Social hour begins at 6 p.m. with food, drink and time to network with others working, living and playing in the Minnesota River Basin. The meeting will start at 7 o'clock and we strive to wrap up the formal discussion by 9 p.m.

Agenda Items:

- Choose 2011 "Clean Up the Minnesota River" focus
- 2010 Project Reports: MN River Paddler Program, MN River Film Documentary, Lake Pepin – MN River Friendship Tour, and Minnesota River – Governor's Cup Opener Proposal
- Communication Audit
- Funding for Future Meetings

For more information: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/january2010meeting.pdf>

Blanding's Turtle Presentation at Library

Lisa Gelvin-Innvaer (Nongame Wildlife Specialist-DNR) will provide a fun look at Blanding's turtles at the River Ranger program January 27 at 6:30 p.m. at New Ulm Public Library. She will explain what they are, how we study them, why they are imperiled, and why they are so special. Learn how to help them and why conserving Blanding's turtles is good for other wildlife and for people, too! There will be a PowerPoint presentation followed by time for questions and an opportunity to see some of the equipment used in DNR turtle research.

The River Ranger program is an effort to encourage outdoor activity and appreciation for our role in enjoying and helping the environment. Though the focus is on youth involvement, adults are encouraged to participate. Children under age 8 must be accompanied by an adult. The program is sponsored by the Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River, New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen, New Ulm Public Library and Water Resources Center at MSU, Mankato.

For more information about the program: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/blandingturtle.pdf>, or contact Ron Bolduan at boldriv@newulmtel.net or 507-354-8367.

American Farm Bureau Federation Suing EPA Over Chesapeake Bay TMDL

The American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF), along with one of its members, the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, filed a lawsuit Monday to block the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) most aggressive effort to date to clean up the heavily polluted Chesapeake Bay watershed. The lawsuit says that the costs of the cleanup will be devastating to farmers and could possibly drive agriculture from the region all together. One of the main contentions of the lawsuit is that EPA's plan cannot be legally enforced because the Farm Bureau believes the methods for determining the bay's pollution from nitrogen, phosphorous and sediment are fatally flawed. The farming groups are also arguing that it is not EPA's responsibility to monitor this pollution reduction plan but rather the states that should be in charge of enforcing a "pollution diet." American Farm Bureau President Bob Stallman announced the lawsuit in his address to his membership at the AFBF's annual meeting in Atlanta this week.

Candlelight Ski/Snowshoe/Walk at Minneopa State Park

The Friends of Minneopa State Park is hosting a Candlelight Ski & Snowshoe Event starting at 5:00 p.m. this Saturday (January 15th) at the state park located off of Highway 68. Strap on your cross country skis or snowshoes and join in all the fun at Minneopa State park. Trails will be lit by candlelight for all to enjoy. All skiers need a Minnesota Ski Pass. The trail begins on the campground side of the park at the east

side of the parking lot. For more information <http://www.greatermankatoevents.com/event-details.php?id=10628>

Creating an Economic Advantage by Loran Kaardal and Brad Cobb

The Minnesota River has been the focal point for water, food, lumber, and transportation since people have settled here. A bluff-lined waterway ribboning through Minnesota's agricultural heartland, the Minnesota River Valley is still a focal point for natural resources and the outdoor recreational opportunities that the great river provides. Generating a new vision for the untapped opportunities the Minnesota River Valley can offer, the Tatanka Bluffs Corridor group is a representation of energized citizens in the valley. This new collaboration section is a result of community organizing with just the right set of ingredients.

For over 20 years, the Blandin Foundation has been training Minnesota's rural community leaders on how to facilitate change and improve the health and economic vitality of Minnesota communities. Blandin's Community Advanced Leadership Program (CALP) trains local leaders on how to identify underutilized community assets and apply innovative leadership ideas towards reaching their goals. A key tenet is to address how resources can be enhanced and developed to create an economic advantage for local communities. The Tatanka Bluffs Corridor group had just this.

For the rest of the article: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/rmsjournalwinter.pdf>

\$26 million available for conservation easements on frequently flooded lands in southern Minnesota through the RIM-WRP partnership

The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announced today that \$26 million is available to retire marginal or damaged cropland in southern Minnesota that is frequently or occasionally flooded. The highest priority sites will result in restoration of wetlands and grasslands through the RIM-WRP partnership. Most of these dollars will be focused in floodplain areas in the 29 counties that sustained damages as identified in the federal disaster declaration, FEMA-1941 DR, resulting from record rainfall events on September 22-23, 2010. The total amount includes \$10 million in state dollars appropriated for flood recovery in the 2010 Special Legislative Session, which is expected to leverage \$16 million in federal dollars.

"The primary goal of these state and federal dollars is to provide additional flood relief and protection on privately owned lands adjacent to water bodies," said John Jaschke, BWSR Executive Director. "But the restored floodplains and grasslands will also provide multiple benefits for wildlife habitat and water quality."

"These dollars will be used to acquire permanent conservation easements from willing landowners to restore and protect floodplain areas. Interested landowners should contact their SWCD or USDA Service Center" said Don Baloun, Minnesota NRCS State Conservationist.

You must own qualifying land in the following counties to be eligible to participate; Blue Earth, Brown, Carver, Cottonwood, Dodge, Faribault, Freeborn, Goodhue, Jackson, Le Sueur, Lincoln, Lyon, Martin, Mower, Murray, Nicollet, Nobles, Olmsted, Pipestone, Redwood, Rice, Rock, Sibley, Steele, Wabasha, Waseca, Watonwan, Winona, Yellow Medicine.

RIM-WRP is a local-state-federal partnership that combines the state's Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve conservation easement program with the USDA Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP). Combining these two programs allows state funds to leverage federal funds that are available through the Federal Farm Bill. Funding for this partnership is through the USDA NRCS and BWSR. Minnesota's Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) implement the program at the local level.

The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources is the state's administrative agency for SWCDs, watershed districts, metropolitan watershed management organizations, and county water managers. The BWSR mission is to improve and protect Minnesota's water and soil resources by working in partnership with local organizations and private landowners.

With the mission of "Helping People Help the Land," the NRCS provides products and services that enable people to be good stewards of the Nation's soil, water, and related natural resources on non-Federal lands. With our help, people are better able to conserve, maintain, or improve their natural resources. As a result of our technical and financial assistance, land managers and communities take a comprehensive approach to the use and protection of natural resources in rural, suburban, urban, and developing areas.

Chippewa River Watershed Project Photo Contest

The Chippewa River Watershed Project sponsored its fourth annual photo contest to highlight people and places of the Chippewa River Watershed. Winning photographs are featured in a 2011 calendar and the "Best In Show" prize winner will have their winning photo professionally framed.

- Twenty-six Photographers Submitted Entries
- Total of 55 Photos were entered
- 17 new photographers participated

The Chippewa River Watershed Project had an independent review committee judge the photos. The top twelve photos were selected and CRWP staff assigned a winning photo for each month.

Winning Photographers

- January-Kim Froemming, Barrett
- February-Mary Jo Forbord, Starbuck
- March-Gail Felton, Montevideo
- April-Curtis Stoeckel, Alexandria
- May-Lynette Norman, Montevideo
- June- Stephen Thronson, Evansville
- July- Joni Moseng, Montevideo
- August-Jenny McLaughlin, Blaine
- September-Robin Niedenfuer, Brandon
- October-Rita Benson, Glenwood
- November-Nancy Carlson, Willmar
- December-Barbara Mulvaney, Glenwood

Best In Show- Gail Felton, Photo of a Snapping Turtle in the Chippewa River, Tunsberg Township, Chippewa County.

2011 Calendars from the CRWP featuring the photo contest winners are now available through the Chippewa River Watershed Project. Supplies are limited. Calendars can be picked up at the Chippewa River Watershed Project office in Montevideo. Contact Jennifer today for your free copy. If you would like to get a calendar, call 320-269-2139 x120 or email jennifer.hoffman@charterinternet.com

"The submissions for the calendar continue to increase and feature a variety of activities and locations around the watershed. The photographs are excellent and makes it very difficult to select winners. The calendar is such a special way to highlight photography talents and share the beauty and opportunities of the Chippewa River Watershed. It's a program that people seem to really enjoy and is a great way to get our message out to the public," said Jennifer Hoffman, Watershed Specialist.

Clean Water Week

Clean Water Week (CWW), Clean Water Network's (CWN) signature event is scheduled for March 1-2, 2011 in Washington, DC. This biennial national conference is a time for clean water experts from across the country to network with colleagues, participate in policy discussions and attend topic specific training. The event includes informative panel discussions, work group meetings to form action plans and abundant networking opportunities. CWW will also feature a lobby day for participants to meet with Members of Congress and their staff to discuss important clean water issues. On Wednesday March 2nd we have scheduled a meeting with EPA Office of Water staff to discuss key regulatory issues and hope to

schedule a meeting with CEQ. On Wednesday we will also host a Mississippi River Basin Capitol Hill Briefing.

For more information on the event go to the web site: www.cwn.org and for the registration form go to <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/cwwregistrationform.pdf>

University of Minnesota Conservation Agronomy is on Facebook

This is a friendly email to let you know that University of Minnesota Conservation Agronomy is on Facebook. Currently there are two UMN Extension Educators specializing in Conservation Agronomy. Programs include: 3rd Crops, Cover Crops, Bioenergy, Manure Management, and Manure Economics. I would like to personally invite you to "Like" UMN Extension - Conservation Agronomy so that you can receive updates on information and events.

Thank you! Jill Sackett; Extension Educator, Conservation Agronomist; Univ. of Minn. Extension / Rural Advantage; 1243 Lake Avenue, Suite 222; Fairmont, MN 56031-1974; Phone: 507-238-5449; Email: sacke032@umn.edu

Survey Announcement

Minnesota state agencies primarily responsible for wetland activities in Minnesota are developing a Wetland Program Plan to help guide state agency wetland program development over the next several years. An online survey to collect input for this plan is available at http://mndnr.gov/eco/wetlands/program_plan_survey.html. As a person with interest in wetlands you can help in two ways:

- 1) Take a few minutes (10-15) to complete the 30 questions in this online survey, and
- 2) Forward this notice to relevant distribution lists or others you know who are interested in Minnesota Wetlands

Mark Gernes; Research Scientist; Environmental Analysis and Outcomes Division; Minnesota Pollution Control Agency; 520 Lafayette Rd; St. Paul, MN 55155; (651) 757-2387 [phone]; mark.gernes@state.mn.us

Legislature critical of Minn. ground water clean-up plan

by [Tim Nelson](#), Minnesota Public Radio (January 5, 2011)

St. Paul, Minn. — A long-term plan to clean up Minnesota's ground water got a chilly reception at its debut at the Minnesota Legislature this morning. The Minnesota Water Sustainability Framework is a \$750,000 research project by experts at the University of Minnesota. It was commissioned by the last Legislature. The [report](#) by university professor Deborah Swackhamer lays out new regulations and funding sources for preserving water reserves and keeping out pollution. Much of the discussion involved agricultural land.

Republican Rep. Paul Torkelson is a farmer near St. James and is the vice chair of the House Environmental, Energy and Natural Resources committee. "I looked at it as being imbalanced -- of course, I'm a rural guy," he said. "The question I asked was about water usage here in the metro. It was identified clearly as a big issue in the beginning of her report and was not addressed in any of the recommendations." Swackhamer told lawmakers her report lays out a path for Minnesota to lead the nation for water quality.

Windbreak Benefits and Energy Saving Landscapes Workshop:

Trees and shrubs can be used to help you save energy year round. Strategically placed trees and shrubs in [shelterbelts](#), [windbreaks](#), [living snow fences](#) and [the home lawn](#), can enhance property value, aesthetics, wildlife and can reduce energy costs by 25 to 30%. There are also cost share programs for rural landowners. Livestock producers can also benefit from these plantings around feedlots and confinement buildings.

To learn more about how trees and windbreaks can save energy costs, plan to attend the educational workshop on "[Windbreak Benefits and Energy Saving Landscapes](#)" which will be held Thursday, January 27, from 6:00 to 8:30 PM at the Redwood High School in Redwood Falls. Registration is \$ 20. Pre-registration is requested. This workshop is sponsored by the University of Minnesota Extension and the Minnesota Forestry Association.

The public is invited to attend. Woodland Advisor and Master Gardener credits are available upon request. Useful handout material will also be available.

To register for this workshop, contact Kathy Eckwright, 507-389-6972 or 888-241-3214, eckwr001@umn.edu. To review other workshops visit: <http://cfc.cfans.umn.edu/wa/>.

Air quality, Tank Violations Cited at Minnesota Beet Sugar Co-op Plant

Air quality and storage tank environmental rule violations at the Southern Minnesota Beet Sugar Cooperative processing plant near Renville have resulted in a \$50,400 civil penalty from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).

From 2007 to 2009, the plant recorded 32 violations of air-quality standards for hydrogen sulfide, and at times exceeded the limit on nitrous oxide emissions. Inspectors also found violations of storage tank requirements, including late and missing tank inspections, a malfunctioning corrosion-protection system, paint failure and surface corrosion on steel tanks and piping, unreported leaks and spills of beet juice, and degradation of the concrete secondary containment surrounding acid-storage tanks. In an agreement with the MPCA, the operators have corrected violations and are working on plans and improvements.

The stipulation agreement is one of the tools used to achieve compliance with environmental laws. When calculating penalties, the MPCA takes into account how seriously the violation affected the environment, whether it is a first-time or repeat violation, and how promptly the violation was reported to appropriate authorities. It also attempts to recover the calculated economic benefit gained by failure to comply with environmental laws in a timely manner. For a comprehensive list of enforcement actions by the MPCA, go to the agency's website at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us>, and click on Regulations, then Enforcement.

Job Announcements:

Senior Manager: Knowledge Sharing and Policy Advocacy

EcoAgriculture Partners ("EcoAgriculture") is an international nonprofit organization that works to advance the science and practice of ecoagriculture – an approach to managing rural landscapes to support sustainable food production, rural livelihoods, and ecosystem conservation. We do so by providing training, research, policy solutions, and support to farmers, communities, and diverse partner organizations at the local, national and international levels.

EcoAgriculture seeks to hire a full-time Senior Manager for Knowledge Sharing and Policy Advocacy ("Senior Manager") to join our committed team in our Washington, D.C. headquarters as soon as possible. The Senior Manager's principal responsibility (approx. 70% time) during 2011 and 2012 will be to coordinate the planning and implementation of the International Ecoagriculture Conference and Knowledge Exchange, to be held in Kenya in early 2012, and follow-up publications and policy engagement. In addition, the Senior Manager will work with other staff to develop and implement EcoAgriculture's communications and policy advocacy strategies.

For more information and to apply contact Courtney Wallace at cwallace@ecoagriculture.org

Grant Opportunities:

Mankato City Council Grant

The Mankato City Council is seeking proposals from non-profit groups and/or individuals serving the greater Mankato area. Grant money is available in the following categories:

- Community performing arts and music--to enhance public performances in various genres of music and performing arts;
- Beautification projects and public art--to beautify and improve the community and public spaces;
- Community social service--to provide social services that enhance quality of life and independence of service to recipients/clients;
- Community events--to provide opportunities of gathering for citizens which result in a positive economic impact

A total of \$22,500 is available. View program guidelines (including funding levels, eligibility, etc.) at <http://www.mankato-mn.gov/Community-Grant-Program/Page.aspx>. Complete an online application or an application is available at the Intergovernmental Center, 10 Civic Center Plaza, by contacting (507) 387-8690.

The application deadline is 4:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 25. Submission of an application does not guarantee funding. A community grant application question and answer session will be held from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday, January 13 in the Blue Earth River Room (first floor) of the Intergovernmental Center. The session provides an opportunity for applicants to ask questions regarding the application and grant process. For more information contact city staff at (507) 387-8609.

Events:

January 12th (Wednesday) is the **Launch Party for This Perennial Land** starting at 5:30 p.m. with a reception and 6:00 p.m. for a program and a book signing and photo exhibition at the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy Stevens Ave Building, Conference Room (2104 Stevens Ave. South) in Minneapolis. Lansing Shepard and Paula Westmoreland spent three years traveling the length and breadth of one iconic Midwest watershed – the greater Blue Earth River basin in south-central Minnesota and north-central Iowa to discover who was driving that change and what impact they were having. Along with professional photographers Meg Ojala and Chris Faust, among others, they documented the work of farmers, scientists, recreationists, conservationists, policymakers, and field level state and federal agency staff.

January 24th (Monday) is the **Minnesota River Board Meeting** at the Sibley County Service Center (111 8th Street) in Gaylord starting at 9 a.m. Paula Westmoreland and Lansing Shepard will be doing a presentation on their new book *This Perennial Land*, showcasing the innovations of citizens, farmers, scientists, conservation agencies, and others working to build a different future in the greater Blue Earth River watershed. For more information <http://www.minnesotariver.org/>

January 27th (Thursday) is **Electrofishing in the MN River** starting at 7pm at the Chippewa County Courthouse in Montevideo, MN. Brad Koenen, MN DNR Fisheries Biologist from the Hutchinson Area Office will tell us about what the MN DNR is finding with their electro fishing surveys of the Minnesota River. Prepare to be surprised and to see awesome footage of hibernating catfish!

February 2nd (Wednesday) is the **Hawk Creek Watershed Project Annual Meeting** at the Kandi Entertainment Center (500 19th Ave. SE), Willmar, MN from 8:30 to 12:00 with a free lunch to those that RSVP before Jan. 29th. Topics will be: 2010 HCWP Progress-Achieving Significant Water Quality Improvements in Farm Country by Cory Netland (HCWP Coordinator), Public Drainage Benefits & Damages “Past, Present, and Future” by Loren Engelby (Kandiyohi County Drainage Inspector), Ron Ringquist (Drainage Viewers Assoc.), Kurt Deter (Rinke-Noonan Environmental Lawyer), and Harlan Madsen (Kandiyohi County Commissioner), and The History of Environmental Expectations in Minnesota by Stephen Lee from MPCA. Soil and Water Continuing Education Credits are pending! For more information and RSVP call 320-523-3666.

February 12th (Saturday) is the **Cure 19th Annual Meeting** from 6-10pm at the Hollywood on Main Street Montevideo. **Invited Guest Speakers: John Hickman & Jon Carlson** will tell us about their past year making a documentary about the growing movement to clean up the Minnesota River. Come hear the

stories of all the fantastic people they met along the way and get a sneak preview of portions of the documentary! For more information visit <http://www.cureriver.org/events.html>

February 14th (Monday) is a **Third Crop Producer meeting on Local Foods** starting at 9:30 a.m. with registration and coffee at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Fairmont, Minnesota. The presentations begin at 10:00am and continuing until 3:00pm. There will be a one hour break for lunch on your own during the 12 o'clock hour. Following the conclusion of the presentations, there will be further time for discussion and questions. Please look for information regarding speakers and presentation topics to be coming soon.

February 28th (Monday) is a **Third Crop Producer meeting on Renewable Energy Today** starting at 9:30 a.m. with registration and coffee at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Fairmont, Minnesota. The presentations begin at 10:00am and continuing until 3:00pm. There will be a one hour break for lunch on your own during the 12 o'clock hour. Following the conclusion of the presentations, there will be further time for discussion and questions. Please look for information regarding speakers and presentation topics to be coming soon.

March 10th (Thursday) is the **Hidden History of the Minnesota River Valley presentation** at the Montevideo Chippewa County Public Library. Contact the CURE office at 1-877-269-2873 for time. Wabasso native Beth Johanneck has written a book of stories about the characters who have lived in the Minnesota River Valley from Fort Snelling to Mankato, New Ulm, Redwood and Granite Falls and all points in between. Come and meet the author, hear a few stories and compare notes with fellow history lovers of the region.

March 14th (Monday) is a **Third Crop Producer meeting on Importance of Ecological Services** starting at 9:30 a.m. with registration and coffee at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Fairmont, Minnesota. The presentations begin at 10:00am and continuing until 3:00pm. There will be a one hour break for lunch on your own during the 12 o'clock hour. Following the conclusion of the presentations, there will be further time for discussion and questions. Please look for information regarding speakers and presentation topics to be coming soon.

March 28th (Monday) is a **Third Crop Producer meeting on Practices for Reducing Nutrient Loss** starting at 9:30 a.m. with registration and coffee at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Fairmont, Minnesota. The presentations begin at 10:00am and continuing until 3:00pm. There will be a one hour break for lunch on your own during the 12 o'clock hour. Following the conclusion of the presentations, there will be further time for discussion and questions. Please look for information regarding speakers and presentation topics to be coming soon.

April 16th (Saturday) is the presentation "**Waterfalls and the River Warren**" by Professor Bob Douglas starting at 9:30 a.m. at the Linnaeus Arboretum at Gustavus Adolphus College. Professor Bob Douglas will talk about waterfalls in the Minnesota River including many discovered by him. A tour of the waterfalls will follow the presentation.

May 7th (Saturday) is **Twin Valley Council 4th annual fun shoot** at the River Ridge Gun Club in Courtland, MN starting at 8am. For more information call (507) 359-5770.

May 21st (Saturday) is the "**Caring for God's Creation**" with Jim Gilbert, Minnesota's most well-known naturalist and former director of the Linnaeus Arboretum starting at 9:30 a.m. at the Arboretum at Gustavus Adolphus College. Bring your walking shoes.

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

Environmental/Conservational Articles:

[County to buy land near Red Jacket Trail](#) (Mankato Free Press). A 41-acre parcel off the Red Jacket Trail will probably be preserved as public land after the Blue Earth County Board agreed Tuesday to buy it for \$50,000.

[New ag commissioner Frederickson draws praise](#) (Agri News). Minnesota's farm leaders are praising Governor Mark Dayton's appointment of David Frederickson as the state's next commissioner of agriculture.

[Legislature to hear a 25-year plan for clean water](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Legislature to hear report on how to clean up rivers and lakes and ensure safe drinking water.

[Pay more to play?](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). With money tight, the DNR's new leader will need to consider raising license fees. But the move could drive away hunters and anglers.

[Opinion: Framing a discussion about water](#) (St Paul Pioneer Press). In 2008, Minnesotans voted for a constitutional amendment to raise the state sales tax for 25 years. The amendment created four funds for various purposes, but a river of clean water ran through it.

['Recycle Your Holidays' encourages residents to bring in old lights](#) (Owatonna People's Press). Now that the holiday lights that trimmed the tree are coming down, work is trickling in for consumers of the Jobs Plus program.

[CRP marks 25 years](#) (Worthington Daily Globe). In an effort to stem the tide of dropping commodity prices in the early 1980s, the federal government adopted several key programs in the 1985 Farm Bill that helped change the course of agriculture in the latter part of the 20th century.

[Stakes high for mining projects with Dayton's DNR pick](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). Gov. Mark Dayton has hired someone with a long conservation record to lead the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

[Reactions to Dayton's DNR choice](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Here are some reactions to the selection of Tom Landwehr as DNR commissioner:

[MPCA cites air violations at sugar beet plant](#) (Associated Press). The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has assessed a sugar beet plant a \$50,400 civil penalty for air quality and storage tank violations.

[Water power pays off for cities](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Hastings is among seven Minnesota cities and two counties that own hydroelectric plants.

[How much do you affect the ecosystem?](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Results of household survey can change pollution inputs neighborhood by neighborhood.

[3M, Minnesota in accord on water plan](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). A new permit for discharging water from the company's Cottage Grove plant has some tighter requirements on cleaning up PFCs.

[River View Sanitation adds recycling](#) (New Ulm Journal). Nearly a decade ago Kevin and Kathy Finstad worked other jobs while trying to establish their new company, River View Sanitation (RVS).

I believe that there is a subtle magnetism in Nature, which, if we unconsciously yield to it, will direct us aright. – Henry David Thoreau

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>

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

[Thanks,](#)

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