



WaterFront Bulletin



Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

March 2009

Working with Minnesotans to protect, conserve and improve our environment and enhance our quality of life.

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WaterFront is a web-based bulletin featuring updates on impaired waters, watershed project funding and water restoration and protection activities underway throughout the state. *WaterFront* is published to share information with internal MPCA staff and external watershed partners.

Funding Update

Program, funded by lottery, seeking proposals for projects

The Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources has issued its 2010 Request for Proposals (RFP) for funding from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund beginning July 1, 2010. Proposals are sought in seven categories: 1. Water Resources; 2. Renewable Energy Related to Climate Change; 3. Habitat Restoration, Enhancement, and Acquisition; 4. Invasive Species; 5. Natural Resource Conservation Planning and Implementation; 6. Environmental Education; and 7. Creative Ideas.

For detailed descriptions of the priorities under each of the seven categories, and other information pertaining to the LCCMR's proposal and funding process, please visit <http://www.lccmr.leg.mn> and click on "2010 Request for Proposals." Anyone with a project idea consistent with the RFP may submit a proposal for consideration by the LCCMR.

Proposals are due Friday, May 1, 2009.

During summer and fall 2009, the LCCMR will consider all proposals received in response to the 2010 RFP and select projects to recommend to the 2010 Minnesota Legislature. Project funding does not become available until July 1, 2010.

Worth Noting

Minnesotans support environmental efforts

Minnesotans' support of recycling programs, environmental education and renewable energy is substantial according to "The Third Minnesota Report Card on Environmental Literacy," funded by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and written by Anthony Murphy, Ph.D. and Andrea Olson, Ph.D., College of St. Catherine Associate Dean and Associate Professor respectively.

Overall, the report showed that 93 percent of Minnesotans support environmental education in schools, 85 percent participate in recycling programs and 67 percent believe that renewable energy is the best means to meet America's energy needs.

Go to www.mnseek.net/reportcard for the full report.

MPCA seeks input on proposed changes to state water quality standards

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency is seeking information and data submissions on the proposed changes to the state's water quality standards designed to protect Minnesota's lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands and ground water resources. This is the second public comment period for the 2011 triennial water quality rules revision process. Responses must be submitted to the MPCA by 4 p.m. on April 17, 2009. A complete list of all areas where the MPCA is seeking comments, data and technical information can be found on the agency's web site at www.pca.state.mn.us/water/standards/rulechange.html.

Events

Erosion and Sediment Control seminar to be held March 11

Builders, contractors, developers and anyone interested are welcome to attend an Erosion and Sediment Control seminar, from 1 to 3 p.m. on Wednesday, March 11, at the Alltel Civic Center, One Civic Center Plaza, Mankato. Seminar topics include changes to Minnesota's stormwater construction permit program, erosion control plans, stormwater pollution prevention, water quality regulations, changes in expectations, local compliance inspections and enforcement and best management practices.

To register contact Michael McCarty, Mankato's stormwater program coordinator, at 507-387-8643.

The Erosion and Sediment Control seminar is being sponsored by Southern Minnesota Construction, Blue Valley Sod, Ramy Turf Products, I & S Group, Bolton and Menk, Blue Earth County and the cities of North Mankato and Mankato.

Kickoff for Watershed Communication Network project April 22

Please mark your calendars for a Watershed Communication Network kick-off event being planned for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, April 22, at the Pizza Ranch in Redwood Falls. This meeting is primarily for watershed projects and districts in the Minnesota and Crow River watersheds. Meeting topics so far include:

- Marilyn Bernhardson, Redwood County SWCD and chair of the Clean Water Council, will talk about civic and stakeholder engagement efforts, and how the CWLA budget is being formulated.
- Shannon Fisher of the Water Resources Center/Minnesota State University will discuss ideas about forming a technical advisory group for the Minnesota River Board.
- Participants will discuss ideas on how to create and operate a communications network among watershed groups, such as a web page, emails, blogs, occasional events, etc.

Note that lunch will be the Pizza Ranch buffet at each individual's expense. For more information, call MPCA Public Information Officer Forrest Peterson at 320-441-6972.

Read All About It

Article addresses citizen engagement

What would it really take to achieve meaningful citizen engagement in science and technology? Maria Powell and Mathilde Colin address this question in a Science Communication article, available at <http://scx.sagepub.com/cgi/content/abstract/30/1/126>. Based on their experience, the authors offer 10 recommendations to engage citizens in science and technology.

Online newsletter addresses "Wetland Breaking News"

Read about "Wetland Breaking News" at www.aswm.org/wbn/current.htm. The Feb. 18 edition includes information about a video of a Okabena, Minn., farmer who returned some of his marginal farmland to wetlands with help from Reinvest in Minnesota, as well as sea levels rising at nearly double previous estimates due to global warming.

Submissions

Readers encouraged to send submissions

Please email submissions for WaterFront to catherine.rofshus@pca.state.mn.us. You can reach Cat at 507-206-2608.