

Watershed Professionals Network News – May 10, 2011

wq-b3-50c

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Watershed Professionals Network News is a periodic, informal e-newsletter for professional staff and others with watershed projects and districts, with a primary focus on the Minnesota River Basin. Please forward this to any other interested parties. Past issues are located on the MPCA Minnesota River Basin [Web page](#). Contributions of news and information will be greatly appreciated! Your comments and suggestions are welcome. – Forrest Peterson, MPCA-Willmar, forrest.peterson@state.mn.us, 320-441-6972.

'Working together' documentary to air in prime time on KARE 11

The one-hour documentary, "River Revival: Working Together to Save the Minnesota River," will air on KARE 11 TV at 6 p.m. on Sunday, June 12. The program, hosted by Minnesota's renowned outdoors advocate Ron Schara, started out as an idea proposed to the Minnesota River Watershed Alliance in 2009. It has become a reality due to the persistent efforts of producer John Hickman and producer/videographer Jon Carlson. "I just thought it was a good idea," John says. Teaming up with Carlson, one of his best friends and an experienced documentary filmmaker, John worked hard seeking funding and sponsors. "It was a huge boost" when the Water Resources Center at Minnesota State Mankato agreed to become the primary sponsor, John says. Other major sponsors include Friends of the Minnesota Valley, CCMR, CURE, Minnesota River Valley Audubon Chapter, USFWS, Minnesota River Board, Minnesota Valley Trust, McKnight Foundation, and Minnesota Agricultural Water Resources Coalition. "The theme is working together, and this is evident in the wide range of sponsors," John says. Getting Ron Schara on board to do the production occurred in part because "he has a real passion for the Minnesota River." To coincide with the airing of the documentary, the Water Resources Center will unveil its updated and expanded Minnesota River Basin Data Center [web site](#).



John Hickman

Watershed network spring meeting May 12 at Redwood Falls

The program is set for the spring meeting of the Minnesota-Crow watershed professionals network Thursday, May 12, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Pizza Ranch in Redwood Falls. Peter Fastner of the MPCA will talk about funding resources and the grant process. There will be a report on the April 12-13 training on "new approaches to watershed-based civic engagement." A Discovery Farms update, viewing of segments of the documentary "Working Together," and round-robin about what's going on at individual watershed organizations, will round out the afternoon portion. Beyond the topics, the meetings provide a good opportunity for informal networking. The network effort was revived in

2009, building on a series of meetings that took place in 2004. The purpose of the network is to help watershed professional staff share their experiences and learn how to make their outreach efforts more effective. A monthly e-newsletter was launched in June 2009. A [Web page](#) has been posted on the MPCA Web site, including past issues of the newsletter.

Prairie County RC&D affected by federal budget cut

Despite the loss of more than \$100,000 in federal funds, the Prairie Country Resource Conservation and Development Council will strive to continue with its mission in a nine-county region working “to promote economic, human, and natural resource development.” Randy Nelson, who has served as coordinator, has been re-assigned to other duties with the Natural Resources Conservation Service office in Willmar, but hopes to remain active on the RC&D watershed technical advisory committees. A federal appropriations bill signed into law April 15 eliminated any federal funding for the RC&D program nationwide. However, the regional group will continue as a 501c3 non-profit organization, receiving dues from member counties, and fees from grants for which it provides fiscal agent services. In 2010, the council provided assistance to 25 projects, valued at more than \$5 million. It serves as fiscal agent for Chippewa, Crow, Hawk, and Shakopee Creek watershed projects. Member counties include: Big Stone, Chippewa, Kandiyohi, Lac qui Parle, McLeod, Meeker, Renville, Swift, and Yellow Medicine. Prairie Country RC&D [website](#).

FMV promoting Community Clean-Ups for Water Quality

Friends of the Minnesota Valley is helping organize Community Clean-Ups for Water Quality throughout the Minnesota River Watershed. Clean-Ups focus on removing organic debris that collects in and around city boulevards, curbs, and storm sewer intake areas. To learn more about the Community Clean-Ups for Water Quality Program, view the online informational video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9sG7sOI0ySE>. To organize a Clean-Up in your community, contact Scott Sparlin at 507-276-2280 or at yasure@lycos.com.

‘Meetings that work’ among topics at watershed workshop April 12-13

While watershed organizations generally have done a good job of planning and conducting public meetings, some new techniques were discussed at the watershed worker training April 12-13 in Montevideo. This two day workshop was full of hands-on-training and provided participants with an opportunity to learn about some new meeting formats. Meeting formats include World Café, open space, and collective mind-mapping. They can tap into the type of energy and unstructured conversation similar to that often occurring among people following a conventional meeting format. In addition to new techniques for meetings, the workshop included tips on outreach methods and resources. Margaret Mangan, Jennifer Hoffman, and Larry Gunderson attended the workshop, and will share some thoughts at the May 12 watershed network meeting.

River Board to discuss future role and funding; tour Renville County

The May 16 meeting of the Minnesota River Board **will begin with a discussion of the organization’s** role and future, followed by a tour of Renville County. The morning board meeting will focus on staff updates by the MRB staff, planning for the upcoming 2011 annual meeting on July 18 in Glenwood, and restructuring options for the Minnesota River Board. John Jaschke, Executive Director of the Board of Water and Soil Resources, will attend **to provide an update on the Governor’s budget and the** removal of funding for the Minnesota River Board. The meeting will be at 9 a.m. in room 117 on the lower level Renville County Government Center, 105 S. 5th St. in Olivia. Lunch will be provided to those who RSVP by May 10 to susancarlin@mnsu.edu or 507-389-6279. More information is available at: www.minnesotariver.org.

Watershed News Briefs

- > More than 600 people attended the annual Earth Day celebration April 16 at Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center near Spicer. **A featured event was "Are You Thirsty?," a puppet show by In the Heart of the Beast puppet theater, educating about the importance of protecting water resources.** Major sponsors of the event include area watershed organizations: Hawk Creek, Shakopee Creek, CROW, Middle and North Fork Crow watershed districts.
- > Hawk Creek Watershed Project held a public April 28 **meeting to review the "Long/Ringo Lake nutrients TMDL Assessment Report."** The report has been formally released for the 30-day comment period, which will conclude on May 18. Comments will be incorporated into the document and work will begin on the draft implementation plan, with guidance from a technical team consisting of local natural resource professions and HCWP staff. The draft report is available on the Web at: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/jsri9be>.
- > The sun broke through May 3 to brighten the annual open house of the Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District in Spicer. Board members, local officials, and area residents viewed displays about district projects and enjoyed conversation and refreshments.
- > Draft TMDL reports on bacteria in the Redwood and Cottonwood Rivers are open for public comment through May 25. The reports are available on the web at www.pca.state.mn.us/gp0r9ab and www.pca.state.mn.us/qzqh9ca, or at the MPCA Marshall office, 504 Fairgrounds Road. Comments may be submitted to Mark Hanson, MPCA, 504 Fairgrounds Road, Marshall, MN 56258, or e-mailed to mark.hanson@state.mn.us. For more information, call Hanson at 507-476-4259. Additional information can also be provided by Doug Goodrich, Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Control Area, phone 507-637-2142, email douglas.goodrich@racgroup.net, or visit www.rcrca.com/.
- > The North Fork Crow River WSD has hired Chris Lundeen as a seasonal watershed technician, doing monitoring, outreach, and assisting with BMPs. The St. Cloud State grad student has previous experience with the Sauk River and Capitol Region watershed districts.
- > About 200 attended an open house update on the South Metro Mississippi TMDL project, May 4, 2011, at the Merriam Park Library in St. Paul, hosted by the Friends of the Mississippi and National Park Service. Water clear enough to grow aquatic vegetation that benefits fish and wildlife is the goal of the project, focusing on turbidity in the river from Fort Snelling in St. Paul to upper Lake



Board members Jianhua (Chen) Qian, left, and Dennis Ulrich host the CURE display at the April 16 Earth Day celebration at Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center near Spicer



Meeker County commissioners Roney Kutzke, left, and Dave Gabrielson (and wife, Judy) at the Middle Fork Crow River open house May 3.

Pepin downstream of Red Wing. More information on the TMDL project is available at:
<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/bkzq98a>.

319 grant application deadline May 13

As of today, May 10, the MPCA has received three applications for federal Clean Water Act Section 319 grants, totaling about \$573,000. The deadline is Friday, May 13 to apply for funds for development, education or applied research (DER) projects and for Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) implementation projects. The complete request for proposal and application forms are available at www.pca.state.mn.us/water/cwp-319.html. Questions should be e-mailed to 319.grant.PCA@state.mn.us.

EPA celebrates American Wetlands Month in May

May marks the 21st anniversary of American Wetlands Month (AWM), a time when EPA and its wetland partners across the country celebrate the importance of wetlands to our nation's ecological, economic, and social health. Information on national, regional, and local activities planned for May will **be updated and posted throughout the month on EPA's American Wetlands Month website:** <http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/awm/>. EPA has also created an American Wetlands Month Widget, **which can easily be shared and embedded on other Web site(s), hot linking to EPA's American Wetlands Month Web page** (<http://tinyurl.com/3935qyh>), and EPA will produce a number of fun and informative American Wetlands Month tweets! Contact Kathleen Kutschenreuter at (202) 566-1383 for more information.

[WaterFront Bulletin](#)

April issue:

Funding Updates

- MPCA taking grant applications
- EPA offers grant for environmental education

Project Updates

- Stormwater retrofits protect trout
- Comments invited on TMDL reports
- 'Protecting the St. Croix' conference April 5

Worth Noting

- Community cleanups lead to water cleanups
- MPCA updates EPA on water programs
- Agency seeking volunteer water monitors

Common Ground

- Highlight the good work of farmers

Calendar/Outreach

May 12: Spring river clean-up, Wegdahl landing, 4:30-6:30, [more info](#).

May 12: Watershed professionals network spring meeting, 10-3, Pizza Ranch, Redwood Falls.

May 16: Minnesota River Board, 9 a.m., Renville County courthouse, Olivia.

May 16: Meeting on removal of Chippewa River dam, Montevideo Council chambers, 7 p.m.

May 21-22: CURE's paddling and river history weekend. [Details](#).

June 12: "Working Together" documentary, 6 p.m., KARE-11.

June 17: Chippewa River paddle, 5:30 p.m., Lentz Landing.

June 18: Trifesta Celebration, 8:30 a.m., Montevideo, Lagoon Park.

Aug. 2-4: FarmFest. Gilfillan-Redwood Falls. [More...](#)

Oct. 19-20: Minnesota Water Resources Conference, St. Paul RiverCentre.
More events on Minnesota River Basin Data Center [Calendar](#)

In the news

[EPA focuses on chronic polluter](#)

Minneapolis Star-Tribune, 5/7/11

[City of Winnebago pays \\$12,700 penalty for wastewater violations](#)

MPCA news release, 5/5/11

[Volunteers Needed To Monitor Health of State's Lakes, Streams](#)

The Farmer, 5/3/11

[CCMR gathering cites river progress](#)

New Ulm Journal, 5/1/11

[Minnesota residents want results on river](#)

DTN, 5/3/11

[Chippewa River trip offers modern perspective](#)

West Central Tribune, 4/30/11

[Public comment period for TMDL reports on Cottonwood, Redwood Rivers runs through May 25](#)

MPCA news release, 4/21/11

Watershed Professionals Network News – April 13, 2011

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- Watershed network spring meeting May 12 at Redwood Falls
- Workshop April 12-13 on **'new approaches to watershed civic engagement'**
- Intensive monitoring reviewed at Chippewa annual meeting
- Kandiyohi County approves redetermination of benefits for County Ditch 10
- Discovery Farms project compares quality of urban stormwater, cropland runoff
- Minnesota River Board to explore re-organization
- **Tour shows research on wintering systems for 'alternative' livestock production**
- 2010 Minnesota River report, documentary on CCMR program April 30
- MPCA seeking volunteer stream and lake monitors



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Watershed network spring meeting May 12 at Redwood Falls

The spring meeting of the Minnesota-Crow watershed professionals network is scheduled for Thursday, May 12, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Pizza Ranch in Redwood Falls. Peter Fastner of the MPCA will be there to talk about funding resources and the grant process. Other possible topics include: Follow-up on the April 12-13 training on **"new approaches to watershed-based civic engagement,"** round-robin about what's going on at individual watershed organizations, and "Working Together" documentary about the Minnesota River. Other possible topics include: legislative update, ditch update, Discovery Farms update, cost-cutting ideas, and 2011 Friendship Tour. Past meetings have featured presentations on drainage and ditches and stakeholder engagement, particularly from the agriculture community. The meetings also provide the opportunity for informal networking. The network effort was revived in 2009, building on a series of meetings that took place in 2004. The purpose of the network is to help watershed professional staff share their experiences and learn how to make their outreach efforts more effective. A monthly e-newsletter was launched in June 2009. A [Web page](#) has been posted on the MPCA Web site, including past issues of the newsletter.

Workshop April 12-**13** on **'new approaches to watershed civic engagement'**

Eleven people are registered for the first workshop on "new approaches to watershed-based civic engagement," April 12-13 at the CURE office in Montevideo. **They will learn about "open space"** meeting technology, which can help citizens, business, and government work together more effectively on important public issues. Workshop attendees include: Brett Arne, Stevens SWCD; Mark Dittrich, MN Ag. Dept.; Heidi Eger, UM Morris student; Larry Gunderson, MPCA-St. Paul; Joe Hauger, MPCA-Marshall; Jennifer Hoffman, Chippewa River Watershed Project; Mary Homan, LqP-YB CWP; Margaret Mangan, MN Ag. Dept.; Lou Ann Nagel, Yellow Medicine SWCD; Jennifer Olson, North Fork Crow River Watershed Project; and Terry Wittnebel, Lac qui Parle SWCD. Everyone is invited to an **"open space" type event 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, April 12, at the Montevideo Community Center.** BBQ sandwiches and beverages will be provided. For more information, contact the CURE office, 877-269-

2873. Attributes of open space meetings: Whoever comes are the right people, whatever happens is the only thing that could have, when **it starts is the right time, when it's over it's over.**

Intensive monitoring reviewed at Chippewa annual meeting

Intensive monitoring, and the history of pollution control were featured at the March 24 annual meeting of the Chippewa River Watershed Project. Aaron Onsrud of the MPCA gave an overview of the monitoring in 2010, which revealed a wide range in water quality and biological life. Monitoring for aquatic life support occurred at 64 sites, and for both aquatic life and recreation at 16 sites. Results showed a surprising variety of fish, and elevated levels of e. coli bacteria. A report will be prepared, leading to an implementation plan. The intensive, watershed scale of



monitoring is part of the [watershed approach](#) for addressing Total Maximum Daily Loads. The state's 81 watersheds will be monitored according to a 10-year schedule. The Pomme de Terre, North Fork Crow, and Snake were done previously; following the Chippewa, intensive monitoring moves to the Missouri Basin. The annual meeting concluded with MPCA emergency response director Stephen Lee's **presentation about the early days of water quality and pollution control.** Starbuck Times news story [here](#).

Kandiyohi County approves redetermination of benefits for County Ditch 10

Acting as the county ditch authority, the Kandiyohi County Board April 5 approved an amended **viewer's report on** redetermination of benefits and damages in the County Ditch 10 watershed. It includes the city of Willmar and portions of adjacent farm and rural residential land, and drains into Hawk Creek southeast of the city. In 1898, CD 10 provided \$904,170 in benefits for 8,004 acres. After redetermination, those numbers are now \$6,537,384 in benefits for 15,722 acres. Nearly 31 acres of buffer strips will be acquired. About 30 landowners attended the hearing. Redetermination is also planned for CD 38, with original 1917 benefits of \$22,995 for 472 acres, and \$765,867 in benefits for 1,206 acres after. The effort in Kandiyohi County has been led by Loren Engelby, county ditch inspector, and formerly, Hawk Creek Watershed Project coordinator. More than a dozen counties are now in the process of ditch redetermination of benefits, including: Freeborn, Martin, Steele, Sibley, Kandiyohi, and Faribault. The procedure is provided in MN Statutes [Chapter 103E](#).



Loren Engelby talks with landowners at the Kandiyohi County hearing on ditch redetermination of benefits.

Discovery Farms project compares quality of urban stormwater, cropland runoff

A study comparing runoff from a city and from nearby farm fields shows major differences in **concentrations of what's in the water.** The first Discovery Farms project in Minnesota compares stormwater from a 1,700-acre section of Willmar, with water quality in drainage from about 300 acres of cropland several miles southeast of the city. Both areas outlet into Lake Wakanda. Now in its fourth year, the study is being conducted by Dr. John Moncrief of the U of M, and the Minnesota Ag Water Resources Coalition. Moncrief gave an update April 5 at the MinnWest Technology Campus in Willmar.

In summary, phosphorus, ammonium, and sediment concentrations are much higher in the city stormwater, while nitrate-nitrogen is much higher in the field drainage. However, some observers question that, in terms of the entire watershed, the study is like comparing apples and oranges – concentration and mass. In the entire watershed, the total area of fields is vastly greater than urban areas. The researchers say that the study is limited in scope, intended only to gather accurate data at the field scale. In response to the indications of higher nitrogen from crop land, the project will be studying the impact of field drainage treatment through rock intakes, bio-reactors, and wetlands. Websites: [Discovery Farms Minnesota Update](#); [Wisconsin Discovery Farms](#).

Minnesota River Board to explore re-organization

Reported March 22 in the West Central Tribune: Threatened with the loss of its state financial support, the Minnesota River Board voted March 21 to explore re-organization in hopes of continuing its multi-county approach to cleaning up the Minnesota River. Executive Director Shannon Fisher will present several organization models to consider at the May 16 meeting in Olivia. Board members indicated a willingness to consider a broader membership. They noted that concerns about the size of the board and a preference for limiting membership to elected office holders were factors that led to the current structure. They also acknowledged that limiting board membership to county commissioners served to guard against what many thought were overly aggressive strategies for cleaning up the river. The leaders of environmental groups in the basin told the board they would support its effort for continued state funding. Scott Sparlin, representing the New Ulm-based Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River, and Patrick Moore, of the Montevideo based Clean Up the River Environment, told board members that having a united block of counties working together has helped.

Basin board bill: HF 1091:

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bin/bldbill.php?bill=H1091.0.html&session=1s87>

Tour shows research on wintering systems for 'alternative' livestock production

A small group of farmers learned more about wintering systems for "alternative" swine and dairy production at a [tour March 18](#) at the West Central Research and Outreach Center near Morris. What's called alternative today may not be much different than the conventional ways of earlier generations. Swine can thrive in well-managed hoop barns. An organic dairy herd finds warmth outdoors atop a large mound of straw compost. Bedding and manure from the hoop barns is composted and land-applied. The tour was sponsored by the "[Profits from Perennials](#)" project of the Land Stewardship Project and Chippewa River Watershed Project. The purpose is to find profitable ways to raise crops and livestock using methods that will sustain land and water resources.



Straw bedding generates warmth for organic dairy herd wintering outside.

2010 Minnesota River report, documentary on CCMR program April 30

The 22nd annual spring celebration of [Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River](#) will be Saturday, April 30 at **Lola's Larkspur in New Ulm. Doors open at 5 and dinner is at 6:30. The program features Scott Kudelka and Kim Musser of the Minnesota State Mankato Water Resources Center, who will review the "Minnesota River Progress Report 2010." At 8:15 there will be a showing of the documentary,**

"River Revival: Working Together to Save the Minnesota River," with producer John Hickman and director/editing producer Jon Carlson. Back by popular demand, Scott Sparlin will **host "Minnesota River Trivia" with a \$100 cash prize.** Tickets are \$25 per person, and the event is open to the public. With seating available for 110, reservations are strongly encouraged. Pre-paid reservations can be sent to CCMR, P.O. Box 488, New Ulm MN, 56073.

MPCA seeking volunteer stream and lake monitors

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency is seeking volunteers for its Citizen Stream and Citizen Lake Monitoring programs. Volunteers will take to the water this summer to measure the health of **Minnesota's rivers and lakes. Monitoring the 105,000 miles of rivers and more than 12,000 lakes is a massive undertaking that requires the help of Minnesota citizens who care about water quality.** Volunteers in the Citizen Stream and Citizen Lake Monitoring programs play a critical role in collecting long-term water quality data. Collecting this data is the first step in protecting or improving water quality throughout Minnesota. Minnesotans who regularly visit or live on a lake or river are encouraged to join **the MPCA's citizen monitoring programs. The MPCA provides equipment and training.** The monitoring is easy, fun and provides a new way to learn more about the water. More information about the volunteer monitoring programs, along with lists of specific lakes and rivers that **need volunteers, is available on the MPCA's Web site at www.pca.state.mn.us/cmp or by calling 1-800-657-3864.**

Watershed Organization News Briefs

The Chippewa River Watershed Project has new e-mail addresses effective immediately:
kylene@chippewariver.org; jennifer.hoffman@chippewariver.org; paul.wymar@chippewariver.org

The Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District annual open house will be 5-6:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 3, at 174 Lake Ave. N., Spicer. The monthly board of managers meeting will follow at 7 p.m.

The Hawk Creek Watershed Project is holding a public meeting Thursday, April 28, during the public comment period for the Long Lake/Ringo Lake TMDL project for nutrients. It will be from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Kandiyohi County Health and Human Services Building in Willmar.

North Fork Crow River April 6:



Water spilling over the banks of the North Fork Crow River inundate hundreds of acres northwest of Delano

Watershed Network News moving to new delivery service

The MPCA has switched to a new service, GovDelivery, to deliver the Watershed Network News and other publications. To ensure delivery, please add mpca@public.govdelivery.com to your address book or safe sender list. The April edition of the Watershed Network News is also posted at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/mvriaa8>. If you have any questions about Watershed Network News or GovDelivery, please call or e-mail Forrest Peterson, forrest.peterson@state.mn.us, 320-441-6972. You can now sign up for a variety of newsletters and information alerts on environmental topics. For details, go to: https://admin.govdelivery.com/accounts/MNPCA/subscriber/topics?qsp=MNPCA_1. You will need to enter your e-mail address before seeing the subscriber list, but you will receive **updates and notifications only on topics you select. Also, you can hit the "cancel" button and your e-mail address will *not* be placed on any subscription list.** In addition, you may manage your subscription to Watershed Network News via this Web page.

WaterFront Bulletin

March issue:

Worth Noting

- Bringing upstreamers and downstreamers together
- Follow MPCA on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube
- Prepare for spring flooding

Project Updates

- TMDL reports approved for Medicine Lake, Stearns County creeks
- Comments invited on TMDL reports for metro lakes
- 'Protecting the St. Croix' conference April 5

Common Ground

- Make your own headlines by writing a newspaper column

Calendar/Outreach

April 14: "Troubled Waters" documentary film, 7 p.m., North Mankato Police Annex.

April 19: Minnesota River Watershed Alliance, 6 p.m., Ridgewater College, Hutchinson

April 18-20: [DNR workshop](#), "The Ditching Dilemma," Fergus Falls AmericInn.

April 28: Long Lake/Ringo Lake TMDL project, 6-7 p.m., County HHS building, Willmar.

April 28-29: [Lakes and Rivers Conference](#), Rivers Edge Convention Center, St. Cloud.

April 30: **Citizens for a Clean Minnesota River annual celebration, 5 p.m., Lola's Larkspur, New Ulm.**

May 3: Open house, Middle Fork Crow WD, 5-6:30 p.m., 174 Lake Ave. N., Spicer, MN

May 6: [Water and Agriculture in the 21st Century](#) symposium, U of M, St. Paul, 612-625-7061.

May 16: Minnesota River Board, Olivia.

May 21-22: **CURE's paddling and river history weekend. Details TBA.**

Oct. 19-20: Minnesota Water Resources Conference, St. Paul RiverCentre.

In the news

[MPCA Offering \\$2.5 Million in Grants for Water Quality Projects](#)

MPCA news release, 4/11/11

[Open House April 21 at New Location of Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Marshall Office](#)

MPCA news release, 4/4/11

[Granite Falls and Yellow Medicine County support state ownership of Minnesota Falls Dam](#)

Granite Falls Advocate-Tribune, 3/31/11

Watershed Projects

[Big Cobb River Watershed Project](#)
[Chippewa River Watershed Project](#)
[Crystal Loon Mills Clean Water Partnership](#)
[Hawk Creek Watershed Project](#)
[High Island Creek Clean Water Partnership](#)
[Maple River Clean Water Partnership](#)
[Rush River Watershed Project](#)

Watershed Districts

[Buffalo Creek Watershed District](#)
[High Island Watershed District](#)
[Lac qui Parle Yellow Bank Watershed District](#)
[Lower Minnesota Watershed District](#)
[Middle Fork Crow Watershed District](#)
[Nine Mile Creek Watershed District](#)
[North Fork Crow Watershed District](#)
[Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District](#)
[Sauk River Watershed District](#)
[Yellow Medicine River Watershed District](#)

Joint Powers Boards and Associations

[Area II-Minnesota River Basin Projects](#)
[Brown-Nicollet-Cottonwood Water Quality Board](#)
[Crow River Organization of Water](#)
[Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance](#)
[Pomme de Terre River Association](#)
[Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Control Area](#)

Links

[Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River](#)
[CURE – Clean Up the River Environment](#)
[EPA – Watershed Central](#)
[Explore the MN River Valley](#)
[Friends of the Minnesota Valley](#)
[Minnesota Agricultural Water Resources Coalition](#)
[Minnesota River Basin Data Center](#)
[Minnesota River Board](#)
[Minnesota River Valley Scenic Byway](#)
[Minnesota River Watershed Alliance](#)
[Mississippi River Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force](#)
[Minnesota Waters](#)
[MPCA-Minnesota River Basin](#)
[Prairie Country RC&D](#)
[Three Rivers RC&D](#)
[University of Minnesota Water Resources Center](#)
[Water Resource Center-Minnesota State University-Mankato](#)

In this issue

- Watershed staff plan spring networking meeting
- Lower Minnesota River floodplain expected to get a real workout
- Governor, state officials support flood preparations efforts
- Forecasters using Doppler technology for flood prediction
- Workshop April 12-13 on 'friendship' style watershed civic engagement
- **Crow River Organization of Water annual report describes 'watershed approach'**
- Selecting biological monitoring sites program topic at Chippewa annual meeting
- Chippewa looking for summer intern candidates
- Lac qui Parle/Yellow Bank celebrates 10 years of accomplishments
- MECA conference hears about progress on Beaver Creek
- Minneapolis mayor notes urban-rural connections at CURE annual meeting
- **DNR offers workshop, 'The Ditching Dilemma'**
- Wetland Restoration Program sign-up opens March 1
- Freshwater Society program on farm policy and farm pollution



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Watershed staff plan spring networking meeting

A small group of watershed organization staff met Feb. 16 in Mankato to start planning for a spring watershed network meeting. It likely will be held in early May at New Ulm or Redwood Falls. A Doodle poll will be sent to help identify the most suitable date. Tentative program topics are grant writing, new Minnesota River documentary, legislative update, and activity reports and news from water management organizations. Several water management organization staff attending the planning meeting included: Susie Carlin, Scott Kudelka, Cory Netland, and Joel Wurscher. Agency staff participating were Margaret Mangan, Department of Agriculture, and Cathy Rofshus and Forrest Peterson, MPCA. Past meetings have featured presentations on drainage and ditches and stakeholder engagement, particularly from the agriculture community. The meetings also provide the opportunity for informal networking. A monthly e-newsletter was launched in June 2009. A [Web page](#) has been posted on the MPCA Web site. A summary is being developed of responses to an informal survey last fall about stakeholder engagement. Also being considered is a roster of staff with expertise in specific areas to serve as resources.

Lower Minnesota River floodplain expected to get a real workout

Come spring, a lot of water will be passing through the [Lower Minnesota River Watershed District](#). With a majority of the district lying in the floodplain, "there's not a lot we can do about it," says District Administrator Terry Schwalbe. Water quality of the numerous, shallow lakes in the district's floodplain is at the mercy of floodwaters, so "it doesn't make a lot of sense to do TMDLs or put a lot of work into them," Terry says, with one exception, Courthouse Lake in Chaska. While levees protect towns and developed areas, there's little doubt that roads and highways will be impacted, especially

Highways 41 and 101 in Chaska and Shakopee. As of Feb. 17, the [NWS Spring Flood Outlook](#) predicted a 90+ percent probability of those roads being impacted. "Depending on predictions, there is a concern that Belle Plaine could be affected by road closings as well," Terry says. The high water volume also carries downed trees and other debris. "Right now there's a huge log jam at the old Union Pacific railroad trestle, right on an oxbow." The track was abandoned three years ago, and the railroad has yet to remove the log jam. The Lower Minnesota Watershed District meanders along the floodplain and adjacent communities from Chaska to the confluence with the Mississippi River, including Fort Snelling and the airport. The district's new 10-year plan soon will be available for public review and comment.

Governor, state officials support flood preparations efforts

Gov. Mark Dayton and various state officials spoke to more than 200 local officials and public safety personnel attending a flood preparation "pep rally"

March 4 at the Montevideo American Legion. The Governor outlined state resources, and committed his strong support of local efforts to combat flooding. Montevideo is among Minnesota River communities expecting near-record flooding this spring. State officials with Gov. Dayton included Kris Eide, Public Safety commissioner; Maj. Gen. Rick Nash; Mike Rothman, Commerce commissioner; Dave Frederickson, DNR southern region manager, and several legislators. With more snow predicted this month, Dan Luna of the National Weather Service said there is a 30 percent chance that flood levels could exceed those in 2001. Marv Garbee, Chippewa County emergency management director, said "super sacks" for making cubic-yard sandbags were available from the Marshall MPCA office.



Governor Dayton talks with local officials at a flood preparedness meeting March 4 in Montevideo.

Forecasters using Doppler technology for flood prediction

DNR hydrologists are drilling holes in Crow River ice and using Doppler technology to better measure and predict flood potential. [Full story](#) on KSTP.com.

Workshop April 12-13 on 'friendship' style watershed civic engagement

A workshop based on last year's highly successful Minnesota River Friendship Tour is being offered April 12-13 in Montevideo through CURE and other sponsors. Space is limited and open to organization staff and interested citizens who live and/or work in the following counties: Big Stone, Grant, Stevens, Swift, Kandiyohi, Chippewa, Lac qui Parle, Yellow Medicine, Renville, Redwood, or Lyon. "Learn how fun and friendly upstream/downstream dialogues and tours can excite public participation." For registration information, contact Patrick Moore or Dixie Tilden at the CURE office in Montevideo, 877-269-2873.

Crow River Organization of Water annual report describes 'watershed approach'

The [2010 annual report](#) of the Crow River Organization of Water does a good job of describing the "watershed approach" that incorporates TMDL projects and other water quality work in the context of an entire watershed, rather than discrete projects for individual lakes and stream reaches. "The watershed approach is designed to intensively monitor the streams and lakes within a major watershed to determine the overall health of the water resources, identify impaired waters, and identify those waters in need of additional protection efforts to prevent impairments. This design,

along with an overall increase in total monitoring sites compared to the previous monitoring approach, provides better spatial coverage of the study watershed and leads to more thorough assessments of main stem rivers and their tributaries.” **The report summarizes TMDL and implementation projects, monitoring and outreach activities of the CROW.**

Selecting biological monitoring sites program topic at Chippewa annual meeting
At Chippewa River Watershed Project annual meeting March 24, Aaron Onsrud of the MPCA stream monitoring unit will describe how biological monitoring sites were selected, and how the process fits in with the agency’s **“watershed approach” for Total Maximum Daily Load projects.** Aaron will review the overall biological health of each 11-digit HUC in the watershed in photos and monitoring results. Doors at the Starbuck Community Center open at 5 p.m., with a meal at 6, and program at 7. To register by March 22, contact Jennifer at 320-269-2139x120, jennifer.hoffman@charterinternet.com.

Chippewa looking for summer intern candidates

The Chippewa River Watershed Project is seeking individuals pursuing degrees in environmental studies/science, biology, hydrology, soil and water conservation or related fields to apply for a summer intern position. For more information contact Jennifer at 320-269-2139 x120 or email jennifer.hoffman@charterinternet.com. The application can be accessed on the CRWP [website](#).

Lac qui Parle/Yellow Bank celebrates 10 years of accomplishments

The Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank Clean Water Partnership celebrated 10 years of accomplishments Feb. 10 at the Dawson VFW in western Minnesota. Project manager Mary Homan reviewed some of the highlights: More than \$1 million for implementation projects, 350 acres of filter strips, 14 sediment basins, 3,250 feet of terraces, 34 open tile intakes replaced, 3 streambank stabilizations, and 2 rain gardens. Also at the event, SWCDs from Lac qui Parle and Yellow Medicine counties presented Conservationist of the Year awards to David and Elaine Hacker, and Charles and Ila and Dennis and Janelle Thompson. Guest speaker [Ashley Shelby](#), talked **about her book, “Red River Rising: The Anatomy of a Flood and the Survival of an American City,”** and the importance of communication in the environmental field.



L-R: Scott Kudelka, Ashley Shelby, and Mary Homan chat at LqP event.

MECA conference hears about progress on Beaver Creek

Cory Netland, Hawk Creek Watershed Project coordinator, gave a presentation on the efforts and results of water quality improvement work in the Beaver Creek subwatershed at the annual **conference of the Minnesota Erosion Control Association March 3 in Plymouth:** “Significant Sediment Reductions in an Intensively Farmed Watershed– Beaver Creek Success Story: The picturesque prairie stream of Beaver Creek is nestled amidst some of the most productive cropland in the Minnesota River Watershed. In this intensively farmed watershed, on-going monitoring efforts have revealed an interesting trend in Beaver Creek; the Total Suspended Solids (TSS) present in the stream trended significantly downward over the past decade. Hawk Creek Watershed Project Coordinator, Cory

Netland, will discuss how TSS reductions were achieved, without regulatory authority, in a challenging environment driven by the agricultural industry."

Minneapolis mayor notes urban-rural connections at CURE annual meeting

Minneapolis Mayor [R. T. Rybak](#) talked about urban-rural connections at CURE's 19th annual meeting Feb. 12 in Montevideo. Reported in the Granite Falls Advocate-Tribune, Rybak said cities, as well as farms, were to be held responsible for the problems **facing the nation's rivers, and in particular the area of the Mississippi River known as Lake Pepin** ([Full Story](#)). John Hickman and Jon Carlson talked about their past year making a documentary about the growing movement to clean up the Minnesota River. Awards included: Good Media Award-[Larkin McPhee](#), producer of the documentary, "Troubled Waters"; and Del Wehrspann, Montevideo, the 2011 Riverkeeper Award.

DNR offers workshop, 'The Ditching Dilemma'

The MN DNR Stream Habitat Program has developed a new workshop series entitled "The Science of Healthy Waters." **This year's workshop**, "The Ditching Dilemma", will unpack the science and policy of ditching in terms of: 1) effects on hydrology, geomorphology, water quality, and aquatic habitat, 2) societal and ecological implications of these practices, and 3) alternative approaches that work towards accomplishing sustainable agricultural goals while restoring channel stability and ecological health. The workshop will be held twice in Fergus Falls, April 18-20, and August 15-17. Cost is \$300. For registration information, click [Here](#).

Wetland Restoration Program sign-up opens

County Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) and local USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Field Offices are now accepting applications for the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) – Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) program. [NRCS news release](#).

Freshwater Society program on farm policy and farm pollution

From Freshwater Society [Web site](#): What are some farmers doing, things that many more could do, to prevent soil erosion and water pollution? What are some the trends in agriculture - rapidly rising commodity prices, soaring land prices and cash rent payments to non-farmer land owners, a huge demand for corn for ethanol production- that threaten to increase pollution and erosion? And how should the federal Farm Bill be rewritten to encourage and reward conservation? About 200 people turned out Feb. 24 to hear Craig A. Cox of the Environmental Working Group address those questions in a lecture at the University of Minnesota. The lecture, titled "Taking the Pollution out of Agricultural Production," was sponsored by the Freshwater Society and the university's College of Biological Sciences. View [video of the lecture](#), or listen to an [audio-only version](#).

Watershed Network News moving to new delivery service

The MPCA has switched to a new service, GovDelivery, to deliver the Watershed Network News and other publications. To ensure delivery, please add mpca@public.govdelivery.com to your address book or safe sender list. The March edition of the Watershed Network News is also posted at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/mvriaa8>. If you have any questions about Watershed Network News or GovDelivery, please call or e-mail Forrest Peterson, forrest.peterson@state.mn.us, 320-441-6972. You can now sign up for a variety of newsletters and information alerts on environmental topics. For details, go to: https://admin.govdelivery.com/accounts/MNPCA/subscriber/topics?gsp=MNPCA_1. You will need to enter your e-mail address before seeing the subscriber list, but you will receive **updates and notifications only on topics you select. Also, you can hit the "cancel" button and your e-**

mail address will *not* be placed on any subscription list. In addition, you may manage your subscription to Watershed Network News via this Web page.

[WaterFront Bulletin](#)

February issue:

Project Updates

- **TMDL reports approved for Brown's Creek, Como Lake**

Worth Noting

- Freeborn County ditch redetermination of benefits
- MPCA monitoring reports online
- 2010 Water Plan has groundwater focus
- Toolbox: Face-to-face meetings worth time and effort

[EPA Watershed News](#)

Calendar/Outreach

March 12: Watershed summit, Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, [Minnesota Ikes](#).

March 21: [Minnesota River Board](#), 9 a.m., Chippewa County courthouse, Montevideo.

March 24: Chippewa River Watershed Project annual meeting, Starbuck.

March 31: ["Life on the river,"](#) Ron Bolduan, 6:30 p.m., Watonwan County Library, St. James.

April 14: "Troubled Waters" documentary film, 7 p.m., North Mankato Police Annex.

April 18-20: [DNR workshop](#), "The Ditching Dilemma," Fergus Falls AmericInn.

April 28-29: [Lakes and Rivers Conference](#), Rivers Edge Convention Center, St. Cloud.

May 21-22: CURE's paddling and river history weekend. Details TBA.

In the news

[Water quality monitoring begins this spring](#)

Pipestone County Star, 3/5/11

[How bad will it flood? Conditions look ominous](#)

Prior Lake American, 2/24/11

[CURE Annual Meeting draws a crowd in 20th year](#)

Granite Falls Advocate-Tribune, 2/17/11

[MPCA has come a long way since 1967 beginnings](#)

Granite Falls Advocate-Tribune, 2/17/11

[Minnesota River valley residents prepare for spring floods](#)

Minnesota Public Radio, 2/8/11

[An electric presentation, a dynamic Minnesota River](#)

Granite Falls Advocate-Tribune, 2/6/11

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[Mississippi River Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force](#)
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- Flood preparations under way on Big Stone Lake, Upper Minnesota
- Watershed organizations support popular Earth Day event
- CURE supports removal of old Minnesota Falls dam
- Chippewa unveils 2011 photo calendar
- Hawk Creek annual meeting features ditch ROB, pollution control history
- Minnesota River Watershed Alliance sets focus areas for 2011
- Ashley Shelby to speak at LqP/Yellow Bank 10th anniversary event Feb. 10
- R.T. Rybak to speak at CURE 19th annual meeting Feb. 12 in Montevideo
- Upper Minnesota WD seeks seasonal water monitoring technician
- Watershed Network News moving to new delivery service



Watershed Professionals Network News is a periodic, informal e-newsletter for professional staff and others with watershed projects and districts, with a primary focus on the Minnesota River Basin. Please forward this to any other interested parties. Past issues are located on the MPCA Minnesota River Basin [Web page](#). Contributions of news and information will be greatly appreciated! Your comments and suggestions are welcome. – Forrest Peterson, MPCA-Willmar, forrest.peterson@state.mn.us, 320-441-6972.

Watershed staff recruited to help plan spring networking meeting

A small group of watershed organization staff will be meeting Feb. 16 in Mankato to plan the program for a spring watershed network meeting, likely to be held in April at New Ulm, Redwood Falls, or Mankato. Several water organization staff have agreed to assist in planning a spring meeting: Susie Carlin, James Fett, Scott Kudelka, Dan Nadeau, Cory Netland, Kylene Olson, and Joel Wurscher. Others are welcome to help plan the spring meeting. Past meetings have featured presentations on drainage and ditches, and stakeholder engagement, particularly from the agriculture community. The meetings also provide the opportunity for informal networking. Initially, they have been facilitated by agency staff. A monthly e-newsletter was launched in June 2009. A Web page will be posted soon on the MPCA Web site. A summary is being developed of responses to an informal survey last fall about stakeholder engagement. Also being considered is a roster of staff with expertise in specific areas to serve as a resource. Look for more details leading up to the spring meeting.

Flood preparations under way on Big Stone Lake, Upper Minnesota.

Last spring high water affected more than 100 of the 800 residences on Big Stone Lake. This spring could be as bad or worse, but preparations have been made, according to Dianne Radermacher, **administrator of the Upper Minnesota River Watershed District.** **"We've been getting sand bags, volunteers, and contractors ready,"** Dianne says. **"We hope there's not much more snow, and for a slow melt. It could be a lot worse down the valley."** The National Weather Service issued its latest forecast Jan. 27: [NWS Spring Flood Outlook](#). Residents in low-lying areas are being encouraged to make preparations, and seek flood insurance: West Central Tribune [article](#).

Watershed organizations support popular Earth Day event

Several watershed organizations play a big role in planning and conducting a popular Earth Day event April 16 at Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center in the New London-Spicer area. The planning group includes Jennifer Hoffman (Chippewa), Dan Nadeau and Diane Sander (CROW), Stephanie Klamm (Hawk), Sara Jacobson and Vanessa Glieden Henjum (Middle Fork Crow), and Jennifer

Olson (North Fork Crow). The watershed groups also contribute funds. The event draws more than 600 kids and adults, many enjoying a free pancake breakfast. There are many exhibits, activities, and entertainment featuring the ["Are you thirsty?"](#) touring show from Heart of the Beast puppet theater. [Youth Energy Summit](#) awards are presented to winning teams from area high schools. The PWELC is located about 10 miles north of Willmar ([map](#)), near the Shakopee Creek headwaters in the Chippewa River watershed.

CURE supports removal of old Minnesota Falls dam

A few miles downriver from Granite Falls, a 15-foot-high, 105-year-old dam stretches across the Minnesota River. No longer needed by its owner, Xcel Energy, and in disrepair, the dam is the focus of debate among local government, industry, and environmentalists. Among the latter, at a meeting Jan. 28, CURE director Patrick Moore conveyed a board resolution calling for removal of the dam, returning the river to its natural rapids. "CURE believes that this action of removing the dam would improve the biological integrity, water quality and natural beauty of the river," Patrick said. Other options are to repair the dam, add a hydroelectric station, or replace it with a rock cascade. Marshall Independent [article](#) Jan. 31.



Minnesota Falls dam

Chippewa unveils 2011 photo calendar

Winners in the fourth annual [photo contest](#) sponsored by the Chippewa River Watershed Project are featured in a 2011 calendar. A total of 55 photos were received from 26 photographers. (Right: Best in show, Gail F. of Montevideo, for March) Calendars are available at the Chippewa River Watershed Project office in Montevideo. If you would like a calendar, call Jennifer Hoffman at 320-269-2139 x120 or email jennifer.hoffman@charterinternet.com. "The calendar is such a special way to highlight photography talents and share the beauty and opportunities of the Chippewa River Watershed," **Jennifer says**. "It's a program that people seem to really enjoy and is a great way to get our message out to the public."



Hawk Creek annual meeting features ditch benefits, pollution control history

The world has changed a lot since the days when drainage and rivers were viewed primarily as ways to **carry excess water and urban waste "away."** What happened to it downstream was of little concern. More up-to-date perspectives on ditches and the impact of pollutants on water quality were presented at the Hawk Creek Watershed Project annual meeting Feb. 2 in Willmar. Ditch redetermination of benefits ([103E.351](#)) was explained by attorney Kurt Deter, drainage viewer Ron Ringquist, and Loren Engelby, Kandiyohi County ditch inspector, who is working on redetermination of benefits for county ditches. Steve Lee, of the Pollution Control Agency, presented a history of the development of environmental regulation. Only in recent decades has society started to view waterways, both man-made and natural, as resources to be protected and used wisely, and not only as

means of carrying away waste. Cory Netland, Hawk Creek coordinator, gave an overview of projects and monitoring, which show some positive trends in the watershed, particularly for sediment.

Minnesota River Watershed Alliance sets focus areas for 2011

The [January 18 quarterly meeting](#) of the Minnesota River Watershed Alliance drew nearly 30 people to a new location, Ridgewater College in Hutchinson, hosted by students from the Environmental Science class. Reports came from the four focus areas in 2010: [Lake Pepin Friendship Tour](#), **"Working Together for the Minnesota River" documentary**, **Minnesota Governor's Fishing Opener** and the Minnesota River Paddler Program along with the Communications Audit conducted by Jenny Gieseke. For 2011, the Alliance will: promote the airing of **John Hickman's [Minnesota River documentary](#)** on or near April 22nd (Earth Day), continue promoting the Minnesota River Paddler Program including holding a paddling event in the Upper Minnesota River Basin with CURE this spring, focus on fundraising, and improve and diversify communications. The Lake Pepin-Minnesota River Friendship Tour will continue to move forward under the leadership of Patrick Moore. Lee Sundmark and the fishing opener team will be meeting with Explore Minnesota Tourism in February **to discuss what it takes to put on a Governor's Fishing Opener** and will look at the idea of hosting an **"Alternative Opener" as a potential option**. Mike Lien of Carver County joined the coordinating team. The next Alliance meeting will be 6 p.m., April 19, at Ridgewater College in Hutchinson.

Ashley Shelby to speak at LqP/Yellow Bank 10th anniversary event Feb. 10

The Lac qui Parle/Yellow Bank Watershed District 10th anniversary celebration is set for Thursday, Feb. 10. The dinner and program will be 5-9 p.m. at the Dawson VFW. The program includes recognition awards and guest speaker [Ashley Shelby](#), author of "Red River Rising: The Anatomy of a Flood and the Survival of an American City." For more information contact Mary Homan at 320-598-3319 or email mary.homan@lqpc.com.

R.T. Rybak to speak at CURE 19th annual meeting Feb. 12 in Montevideo

Minneapolis Mayor [R. T. Rybak](#) will talk about urban-rural connections at **CURE's 19th annual meeting** 6-10 p.m., Feb. 12 at the Hollywood in Montevideo. Also on the program are John Hickman and Jon Carlson, who will talk about their past year making a documentary about the growing movement to clean up the Minnesota River. The Good Media Award will be presented to [Larkin McPhee](#), producer **of the documentary, "Troubled Waters"**. For more information visit <http://www.cureriver.org/events.html>.

Upper Minnesota WD seeks seasonal water monitoring technician

The Upper Minnesota River Watershed District is for a full time, temporary water monitoring technician from April to October 2011. The position is based out of Ortonville, MN in Big Stone County and pays \$10 per hour. Application and Position Description are available at www.umnrd.org or by calling (320) 839-3411 or emailing deanna.lundberg@midconetwork.com. Please submit cover letter with resume and completed application to the Upper Minnesota River Watershed District, 211 2nd Street SE, Ortonville, MN 56278.

Watershed Network News moving to new delivery service

The MPCA has switched to a new service, GovDelivery, to deliver the Watershed Network News and other publications. To ensure delivery, please add mpca@public.govdelivery.com to your address book or safe sender list. The February edition of the Watershed Network News is also posted at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/mvriaa8>. If you have any questions about Watershed Network News or GovDelivery, please call or e-mail Forrest Peterson, forrest.peterson@state.mn.us, 320-441-6972. You

can now sign up for a variety of newsletters and information alerts on environmental topics. For details, go to: https://admin.govdelivery.com/accounts/MNPCA/subscriber/topics?qsp=MNPCA_1. You will need to enter your e-mail address before seeing the subscriber list, but you will receive updates and notifications only on **topics you select**. Also, you can hit the “cancel” button and your e-mail address will *not* be placed on any subscription list. In addition, you may manage your subscription to Watershed Network News via this Web page.

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Funding Updates

- MPCA planning Section 319, CWP funding round
- Framework: Mandate water quality emissions
- Logo unveiled for Legacy funding
- Web site tracks Legacy projects

Worth Noting

- Volunteer water monitoring report now online
- Minnesota part of national lakes assessment
- Common Ground: A little recognition goes a long way

[EPA Watershed News](#)

Calendar/Outreach

Feb. 10: Lac qui Parle/Yellow Bank Watershed District annual dinner, 5 p.m., Dawson VFW.
Feb. 12: CURE annual meeting, 6-10 p.m., Hollywood Theater, Montevideo.
Feb. 15: Nutrient Efficiency and Management Conference, Rochester Event Center. [More information](#).
Feb. 15: Prior Lake-Spring Lake WSD kick-off event, 6:30 p.m., Prior Lake City Hall.

In the news

[Minnesota River Watershed alliance plans to continue raising awareness](#)

Marshall Independent, 1/20/11

[Legislature to hear a 25-year plan for clean water](#)

Minneapolis Star Tribune, 1/4/11

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