

## Watershed Professionals Network News – Dec. 21, 2009

*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. Contributions of news and information will be greatly appreciated! Your comments and suggestions are welcome. – Forrest Peterson, MPCA-public information, Willmar, 320-441-6972.*

### In this issue

- Diverse group to work on Pomme de Terre turbidity TMDL implementation plan
- LqP/Yellowbank launches TMDL for turbidity, bacteria, low DO
- Photo contest winners featured on Chippewa River Watershed Project 2010 calendar
- District seeks grant to help Minneota with storm-sanitary sewer separation
- U of M launches survey on **'Minnesotans and their water'**
- **Citizens League report calls for 'collaborative governance' on water quality work**
- **EPA launches 'TMDLs at work' Web site**

### Diverse group to work on Pomme de Terre turbidity TMDL implementation plan

A diverse group of people have signed on to help develop the implementation plan for the [Pomme de Terre River turbidity TMDL](#), according to Shaun McNally, project coordinator. About 50 people attended the second annual Pomme de Terre watershed meeting Nov. 13 at Morris. "It was a positive and productive meeting," Shaun says. "The bulk of the meeting was spent discussing the draft turbidity TMDL that is undergoing the review and approval process." **Shaun** explained the load duration curves and data contained in the TMDL. The upcoming implementation plan process was discussed, with stakeholder meetings to be held this winter. Shaun also discussed the fecal coliform TMDL implementation plan that was approved last year, and the 319 implementation grant the watershed project received to implement practices to reduce bacteria levels in the river. The grant includes added incentives and cost share for livestock exclusion fencing, rotational grazing, and more buffer strips in cattle pastures, between waterways and manured fields and for feedlot runoff control.



Pomme de Terre Watershed Project annual meeting Nov. 13

### LqP/Yellow Bank launches TMDL for turbidity, bacteria, low DO

Despite a busy, late fall harvest, a total of about 50 people attended the kick-off meetings Nov. 24 for the [Lac qui Parle/Yellow Bank TMDL project](#) for turbidity, bacteria, and low dissolved oxygen. The meetings at Canby and Madison presented an overview of the project by Rich Brasch, of Wenck, who is contracted to prepare the report. Mary Homan, Lac qui Parle watershed project coordinator, invited stakeholder participation in future meetings during report development, and later, to work on the implementation plan. The Lac qui Parle watershed drains 1,712 square miles, 976 in Minnesota and 736 in South Dakota. From its headwaters at Lake Hendricks in Lincoln County, the Lac qui Parle flows northeastward through Yellow Medicine and Lac qui Parle counties before entering the Minnesota

River near Watson. In the first 60 miles of drainage, the elevation drops more than a thousand feet from the Coteau. The TMDL project also includes the Yellow Bank River watershed, which headwaters in South Dakota. About one third of the Lac qui Parle and about two thirds of the Yellow Bank watershed are located in South Dakota.

Photo contest winners featured on Chippewa River Watershed Project 2010 calendar  
The Chippewa River Watershed Project [2010 wall Calendar](#) is now available, and features the winners of this year's photo contest and watershed information. The calendar is free, and limited supplies are available at the office, or by contacting Jennifer Hoffman, [jennifer.hoffman@charterinternet.com](mailto:jennifer.hoffman@charterinternet.com). Sixteen photographers submitted 41 entries. An independent review committee judged the photos, and selected the top twelve, which CRWP staff then assigned for each month:

- January-Stacy Salvevold, Starbuck
- February-Cheryl Johnson, Evansville
- March-Barbara Mulvaney, Glenwood
- April-Nancy Carlson, Willmar
- May-Nancy Carlson, Willmar
- June- Sara Schultz, Montevideo
- July- Karen Falk, Murdock
- August-Faith Anderson, Starbuck
- September-Patrick Moore, Montevideo
- October-Michael V. Naas, Mendota Heights
- November-David Struxness, Clara City
- December-Anne Schirmer, Clontarf



July- Karen Falk, Murdock

Best in show was Faith Anderson, "Sunset on the Pond," photo of Strandness Lake taken in White Bear Lake Township, Pope County.

### District seeks grant to help Minneota with storm-sanitary sewer separation

The Yellow Medicine River Watershed District has applied to BWSR for a \$300,000 Clean Water Legacy grant to assist the city of Minneota on a \$2.5 million project to complete the separation of storm water and sanitary sewer lines. According to District Administrator Cindy Potz, after heavy rains, the system would back up, sending sewage sludge into the Yellow Medicine River, which already has an approved TMDL project for bacteria. In other TMDL news, a second public comment period will soon will be announced for the Lake Shaokatan eutrophication TMDL study. After the initial comment period and public meeting last summer, 65 comments were received and the study has been revised. Chris Swedzinski joined the district last August as a field technician.



### U of M launches survey **on 'Minnesotans and their water'**

From the water we drink and use to grow our food, to the lakes and rivers that provide recreation for us and habitat for wildlife, Minnesota's water supply is vital, precious and worth protecting. The **Minnesota State Legislature has charged the University of Minnesota's Water Resources Center** with designing a framework on how and when to make investments that will ensure the purity and **abundance of Minnesota's water for generations to come.** Because the state's water resources belong to the people of Minnesota, the framework team has created a Citizen/Stakeholder Advisory Group tasked with gathering public opinion via surveys and listening sessions on a range of water issues—**from boating to agricultural practices. Here's your chance to be heard on issues of water quality, water usage and priorities**---please share your opinions by answering the following questions:

<http://wrc.umn.edu/watersustainabilityframework/MinnesotansandTheirWater/index.htm>

## **Citizens League report calls for 'collaborative governance' on water quality work**

A report of the Citizens League Water Policy Study Committee concludes that "We need a collaborative governance model in which the people and organizations that contribute to water problems play a central role in addressing these problems. The way that Minnesota governs water, however, is not effectively addressing challenges like nonpoint source pollution. We too often impose on government the impossible expectation to solve a problem that cannot be solved without public knowledge and effort." The one year study focused on the important roles citizens must play. The project included involvement from 20 citizen members and organizations: MN Environmental Initiative, Freshwater Society, Minnesota Waters, MN Water Resources Center, Board of Water and Soil Resources, Pollution Control Agency, Dept. of Agriculture, Environmental Quality Board, Dept. of Natural Resources, MN Forest Resources Council, Capitol Region Watershed District, Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District, and MN Agricultural Water Resources Coalition. The report is available at:



<http://www.citizensleague.org/publications/reports/482.RPT.To%20the%20Source.pdf> (6 mb). In 2010 the Citizens League will be working with other organizations to advance their recommendations. Staff contact: Annie Levenson-Falk [alevensonfalk@citizensleague.org](mailto:alevensonfalk@citizensleague.org).

## **'Nutrients in environment' focus of conference Feb. 18**

Commercial fertilizer and livestock manure are assets to agriculture... they can be managed efficiently with the latest techniques and technologies to reduce the financial and environmental risks of nitrogen and phosphorus reaching surface and ground water. Learn about new tools for improving on-farm nutrient efficiency at the "Nutrients in our environment: Past, present and beyond," Feb. 18 at the Verizon Wireless Center, Mankato. Registration is \$10 by calling 651-201-6141. [Nutrients in our Environment](#).

## **EPA launches 'TMDLs at work' Web site**

EPA has released a new Web site that provides a collection of stories to inform and educate stakeholders about the benefits of developing total maximum daily loads (TMDLs), to protect and restore water quality. The site provides both "sound byte" (one to two pages) and "technical" (four to five pages) fact sheets, representative of TMDLs prepared by states around the country. These fact sheets illustrate how stakeholders can get involved in identifying and cleaning up polluted waters that do not meet their state's water quality standards. The fact sheets also give real-life examples of benefits citizens can enjoy from a cleaned-up waterbody, including enhancements to recreation or better quality drinking water supplies. The "TMDLs at Work" Web site is available at <http://www.epa.gov/owow/tmdl/tmdlsatwork/>

## **December WaterFront Bulletin:**

- MPCA awards Clean Water grants
- MPCA awards federal stimulus grants
- EPA seeking grant applications for environmental education

## Calendar/Outreach

Jan. 19: Minnesota River Watershed Alliance quarterly meeting, 6 p.m. social hour, 7 p.m. meeting at the Hutchinson Event Center (1005 15 South Plaza 15). This meeting will focus on choosing a 2010 "Clean Up the Minnesota River" issue.

Feb. 18: [Nutrients in our Environment](#), Verizon Wireless Center, Mankato, contact: Brian Williams, [brian.c.williams@state.mn.us](mailto:brian.c.williams@state.mn.us), 651-201-6637, [Agenda](#).

Feb. 20: Clean Up our River Environment annual meeting, 6 p.m., Hollywood Theater, Montevideo. [www.cureriver.org/events.html](http://www.cureriver.org/events.html)

## In the news

[EPA Study Finds More than Half of Nation's Lakes Are in Good Condition](#)

EPA news release, 12/17/09

[EPA Nonpoint Source News-Notes – October issue](#)

[Clearing the muddy Chippewa](#)

West Central Tribune (fee), 12/5/09

The Chippewa River continues to carry sediment to the Minnesota River by the dump truck load. Last year it averaged about 88 tons a day, and in previous years it has been as high as an average of 186 tons. Now comes the real heavy lifting: Finding ways to significantly reduce that load and meet federal clean water standards for the river. The Chippewa River Watershed Project intends to have its plan in place on how to do that next summer, Director Kylene Olson told attendees at a meeting on Tuesday in Benson. The plan will use a "carrot" approach to encourage improvements, but some attendees said regulatory pressures may be coming as well. The state and federal government are seeking ways to reduce the Minnesota River's sediment load, possibly by as much as 50 percent in the next 20 years.

[First two-stage drainage completed in Southeast Minnesota](#)

Nature Conservancy, 12/3/09

## Watershed Links

[Big Cobb River Watershed Project](#)

[Chippewa River Watershed Project](#)

[Crow River Organization of Water](#)

[Crystal Loon Mills Clean Water Partnership](#)

[Hawk Creek Watershed Project](#)

[High Island Creek Clean Water Partnership](#)

[Lac qui Parle Yellow Bank Watershed District](#)

[Lower Minnesota Watershed District](#)

[Maple River Clean Water Partnership](#)

[Middle Fork Crow Watershed District](#)

[Nine Mile Creek Watershed District](#)

[Pomme de Terre River Association](#)

[Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Control Area](#)

[Rush River Watershed Project](#)

[Sauk River Watershed District](#)

[Three Rivers RC&D](#)

[Yellow Medicine River Watershed District](#)

## Links

[Minnesota River Watershed Alliance](#)

[Minnesota River Board](#)

[Friends of the Minnesota Valley](#)

[Minnesota River Basin Data Center](#)

[Minnesota River Valley Scenic Byway](#)

[Mississippi River Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force](#)

[MPCA-Minnesota River Basin](#)

[CURE – Clean Up the River Environment](#)

[Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River](#)

[Minnesota Waters](#)

[EPA – Watershed Central](#)

## Watershed Professionals Network News – Nov. 23, 2009

*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. Contributions of news and information will be greatly appreciated! Your comments and suggestions are welcome. – Forrest Peterson, MPCA-public information, Willmar, 320-441-6972.*

### In this issue

- Bridge in pasture takes livestock over Middle Fork Crow River
- Mountain Lake rain garden gets a workout
- Friends present annual awards, hear keynote on amendment
- Announcement expected on USDA funds for watersheds
- Alliance hears from Army Corps on modeling, Lake Pepin group
- **'Minnesota River Basin Trends' report** informative, easy-to-read
- River Board announces student research, scholarship grants
- Judges needed for high school and elementary science fairs
- Search EPA's Section 319 nonpoint source grants database
- Minnesota Waters grant applications due Dec. 11

### Bridge in pasture takes livestock over Middle Fork Crow River

The Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District provided cost-share and a loan for a \$12,400 bridge project over the river in a pasture south of Belgrade. Instead of tromping through the river and releasing **sediment recorded at the district's gauging site** downstream, horses and cattle now cross on a **bridge fashioned from a flatbed trailer**. "This project is a success story because it was a win-win for both groups; the farmer still has access to both sides of his pasture, and water quality will benefit with less erosion and more vegetation on the banks of the river," **says district technician Vanessa Glieden Henjum**. "In February we approached the farmer to see if he was interested in putting a bridge over the river and fencing off the river," **Vanessa says**. "They were interested but we needed to keep the cost of the project down in order to keep the project affordable." The District used CWLA and CWP funds for 75 percent and issued a low interest loan for the remaining 25 percent. The District worked with Spicer DNR and Kandiyohi County to design the bridge. The bridge is actually a flatbed trailer with side rails welded on and sits on a rip-rap base. The bridge sits about 2 ½ feet above the water and was designed so that during times of high flows it will be under water.



Middle Fork Crow River through pasture - Before



Middle Fork Crow River through pasture - After

Mountain Lake rain garden gets a workout  
 Rainy October weather provided an immediate workout for the urban rain garden installed Sept. 26 in Mountain Lake. "It was a beautiful sunny day to **work for water quality,**" says Dave Bucklin, Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance coordinator. "The garden is along a city street and now has a curb cut to allow storm water to enter the garden. The Mountain Lake, Lake Commission and Tree Commission are promoting rain gardens and hope this is the first of many in the city." The project was funded by a Coteau Des Prairies RC&D grant. Staff from Metro Blooms of Minneapolis provided the expertise and also brought the plants for the garden. Many local volunteers provided the labor. The boulevard type rain garden is about ten feet by twenty feet, and six inches deep.



Volunteers help install rain garden in Mountain Lake

Friends present annual awards, hear keynote on amendment

The annual dinner Nov. 12 of Friends of the Minnesota Valley featured comments from David Zentner, co-chair of the Rally for Ducks, Wetlands and Clean Water campaign that ultimately resulted in the passage in 2008 of the Clean Water, Lands & Legacy constitutional amendment. Dave urged conservation organizations and citizens to track and monitor the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage **Council's** activities over its 25-year life span, and discussed the importance of using amendment funds to benefit statewide conservation interests rather than parochial interests. **The Friends' Carlson-Minge Award** went to Ron Nargang for his leadership role with the Minnesota River Basin Citizen Advisory Committee. The Elaine Mellott Award went to Dee Czech, a citizen leader largely responsible for the success of the Community Clean-Ups for Water Quality in Arlington. The Leadership in Stewardship Award went jointly to Rahr Malting Company and Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community for their collaboration on Koda Energy, LLC, a biomass-fueled power plant located near Shakopee. Officers for the upcoming year include President Tim Lies, Vice President Anne Ludvik, and Secretary Mary Kay Lynch. – *Lori Nelson*

Four state watersheds on list for Mississippi River Basin Initiative

The USDA Monday announced the list of 41 watersheds in 12 states **for the USDA's Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative.** In Minnesota they include the Middle Minnesota, Root, Sauk and Cedar (with Iowa) to be in line for a portion of the \$320 million recently announced by USDA for BMPs on ag land to reduce hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico. According to a [USDA news release](#), smaller watershed projects will be selected through a competitive process under NRCS' Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI). Three requests for project proposals will be announced in the next several weeks.



Army Corps modeling project, Lake Pepin group topics at MRWA

The Minnesota River basin is in store for a long-term, "intensive modeling" project, according to Mike Wyatt of the [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers](#), speaking at the quarterly meeting of the [Minnesota River Watershed Alliance](#) Oct. 20. Describing his **work with the Corps** as "eco-system restoration," Mike said the study, requested by the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board, is just starting, with \$350,000 in

annual funding. Mike said early promotion from CURE – Clean Up the River Environment – helped move the project forward. He also mentioned the recent announcement by USDA of \$320 million earmarked for water quality work in the Mississippi Basin. Among other MRWA meeting highlights, Darby Nelson of Champlin told about his five-day paddle on the Minnesota River in July ([Story on MPR](#)). Darby is a member of the [Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council](#). Mike McKay of Red Wing, shared information about the [Lake Pepin Legacy Alliance](#), a citizens' group focus on TMDL implementation. The next MRWA meeting will be Jan. 19, 2010 at the Hutchinson Event Center. On Nov. 16 the Minnesota River Board approved \$2,250 for Alliance to fund three quarterly meetings – January, April and July.

### **'Minnesota River Basin Trends' report informative, easy-to-read**

"Minnesota River Basin Trends" is a new, comprehensive, reader-friendly 60-plus page overview touching on the basin's history, land use, demographics, water quality, recreation, and emerging trends. Many colorful photos, charts and graphics help tell the story of progress on the long road to better environmental health. "Research shows some indicators improving, some declining, some static," the report states. "Some progress has been made and much still needs to be accomplished." The report was prepared by the MSU Water Resources Center in partnership with the MPCA and Minnesota River Watershed Alliance. It is available on the Web at: <http://mrbdc.mnsu.edu/mnbasin/trends/index.html>.

### **River Board announces student research, scholarship grants**

The Minnesota River Board recently announced the next round of Undergraduate Scholarships and Research Grants. Up to \$500 will be awarded to students doing research in the Basin. Two, \$500 scholarships will be awarded candidates who have declared a major such as Environmental Science, Biology, Agriculture, Engineering, Public Administration, or Political Science and have the intention of pursuing work in Water Resources. Application forms are due March 12 and are available at: <http://mrbdc.mnsu.edu/org/mrbd/index.html>. For more information contact: Susie Carlin, MRB Program Director, [susan.carlin@mnsu.edu](mailto:susan.carlin@mnsu.edu).

### **Judges needed for high school and elementary science fairs**

The Minnesota River Board is offering special awards and is looking for judges at two upcoming science fairs. Two or three are needed for junior/senior high science fair Feb. 6, and up to six judges for an elementary science fair May 1. Last year more than 1,480 projects and research papers from 156 schools competed at this regional event. Minnesota State University, Mankato and the College of Science, Engineering & Technology are again hosting the 59th Annual Regional Science & Engineering Fair. More than 250 students are anticipated for the junior/senior high fair (Grades 7-12), and more than 1,300 students are expected to participate at the elementary fair. For more details contact Susie Carlin at the River Board, or Mary Van Duynhoven, Administrative Assistant, SC/SW MN Regional Science & Engineering Fair, Minnesota State University, Mankato, 242 Trafton Science Center SOUTH, Mankato, MN 56001, 507-389-2849, or visit [www.mnsu.edu/sciencefair](http://www.mnsu.edu/sciencefair). A registration form is available at [https://msufair.norsoft.net/Judge\\_Registration.aspx](https://msufair.norsoft.net/Judge_Registration.aspx).



Search EPA's Section 319 nonpoint source grants database

EPA recently added new tools to the Nonpoint Source Grants Reporting and Tracking System (GRTS) database to enable the public to search for information about NPS pollution control projects. One way is to perform a criteria-based query. This method is best for finding 319 projects that meet certain conditions; for example, NPS projects that implement a Total Maximum Daily Load to control mine waste, or projects implementing best management practices for waters polluted by urban runoff. To search for projects, visit <http://iaspub.epa.gov/grts/projects>. Another new search tool is the interactive map, which enables browsing for project information by watershed. Use the find, pan, and zoom buttons to navigate to the location of interest, and the 319 projects will appear, summarized by watershed. At a regional scale, projects are displayed by subbasins (8-digit hydrologic units), and at a local scale, by subwatersheds (12-digit hydrologic units). Check out the GRTS Map Viewer at: <http://iaspub.epa.gov/grts/map>. For more information on GRTS, visit [www.epa.gov/nps/grts](http://www.epa.gov/nps/grts), or contact Santina Wortman at [wortman.santina@epa.gov](mailto:wortman.santina@epa.gov).

#### Minnesota Waters grant applications due Dec. 11

Applications for Minnesota Waters Conservation Partnership grants must be post-marked by Dec. 11, 2009. Seven \$5,000 grants will be awarded. Grants provide funding for citizen-led lake and river improvement projects across the state, including, but not limited to:

- Shoreland habitat improvement projects
- Shoreland restoration projects
- Inventorying and assessment projects
- AIS prevention projects
- Outreach and education projects benefitting lake and stream health

Download Conservation Partnership grant criteria and application at: [www.minnesotawaters.org](http://www.minnesotawaters.org).

Contact Erica LeMoine at [erical@minnesotawaters.org](mailto:erical@minnesotawaters.org) for more information.

#### Calendar/Outreach

Nov. 23: 6 p.m., Pomme de Terre Watershed annual public meeting, Old #1 Bar and Grill, 412 Atlantic Avenue (the main street) in Morris. Preliminary agenda:

1. Discuss the approved fecal coliform implementation plan and new EPA implementation grant.
2. Discuss the turbidity TMDL, which is complete and being reviewed by the EPA for approval.
3. Talk about the turbidity implementation plan process slated to begin this winter.
4. Discuss the lake monitoring project.

Nov. 24: Lac qui Parle/Yellowbank TMDL project public information meetings, 1:30 p.m. at Canby Community Center, 7 p.m. at Madison VFW.

Dec. 1: Chippewa River Watershed Turbidity TMDL stakeholder meeting, 1 p.m. McKinney's on Southside in Benson, 300 14th St S, Benson, MN

#### In the news

[EPA Nonpoint Source News-Notes – October issue](#)

#### Watershed Links

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- Basin legislation hot topic at water resource professionals assembly
- **Rain barrel 'truckload sale' a huge success**
- Draft 2010 impaired waters list official comment period Oct. 19-Nov. 19
- St. Paul neighborhood studies Como Lake water quality
- EPA Web cast on climate change effects on water resources
- Nine Mile Creek celebrates 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary Sept. 30
- Volunteers collect tons of trash along Crow River
- Waterfront Bulletin October issue
- E-mail address updates
- Calendar/outreach
- In the news
- Watershed links

### Minnesota River Board tours Pomme de Terre

The Sept. 21 meeting of the Minnesota River Board went to Morris and the Pomme de Terre Watershed. Shaun McNally, PdT Watershed Project Coordinator, gave a presentation on the watershed and its projects. The board toured the southern portion of the watershed from Morris down to the confluence with the Minnesota River at Marsh Lake southwest of Appleton. Tour stops included the new Pomme de Terre scenic overlook at the U of M West Central Research and Outreach Center; the shoreline restoration project with the DNR, Stevens County SWCD and Morris Area High School at Pomme de Terre Park in Morris; a phase II biological monitoring site on Drywood Creek; the start of the DNR canoe trail near US Hwy 12; the site of the old mill dam in Appleton that was removed in 1998; and the Marsh Lake dam and confluence with the Minnesota River. The Pomme de Terre Watershed annual meeting is set for 6:30 p.m., Nov. 23 at the Old #1 Bar and Grill, 412 Atlantic Avenue (the main street) in Morris.



New overlook of the Pomme de Terre River at the U of M West Central Research and Outreach Center near Morris.

Basin legislation hot topic at water resource professionals assembly

Plenty of good discussion and networking energized more than 200 attending the Minnesota River Basin Water Resources Professionals Assembly Oct. 1 at Jackpot Junction. Proposed legislation for basin organizations, and measurement of progress highlighted a jam-packed agenda, organized by Susie Carlin and staff, and ably moderated by Audrey Arner, a Montevideo area farmer. The proposed legislation generated much small-group discussion, with questions about the role, authority, and funding of a new basin management structure. Presentations from watershed staff included Kevin Bigalke on **"Approaches for Effective Watershed Management,"** and Kay Clark and Dave Bucklin on **"Partnering Opportunities."** Scott Kudelka presented an overview of progress since the Minnesota River Assessment Project 17 years ago. Shannon Fisher and Steve Lawrence, director of Pope County Land and Resource Management, discussed opportunities for a proposed Basin Professionals Advisory Team.



Networking at the Minnesota River Basin Water Resource Professionals Assembly Oct. 1 (from left): Jack Frost, Scott Sparlin, Kevin Bigalke, Terry Schwalbe.

### Rain barrel 'truckload sale' a huge success

Faribault County SWCD's rain barrel truckload sale Aug. 27-28 sent a total of 125 barrels throughout the multi-county region. **"The sale event was a huge success, with all but two of the barrels sold,"** says Jennifer Ronnenberg of the SWCD. **"We are currently taking advance orders for a spring wait list."** They offered the barrels to **homeowners at wholesale cost through county's Small Community Stormwater Project.** Barrels included 55-gallon recycled oak (wine) and 55-gallon plastic barrels, with or without hardware kits. Order forms, cost list, and pictures can be found on the SWCD website at [www.faribaultcountyswcd.com](http://www.faribaultcountyswcd.com).



Draft 2010 impaired waters list official comment period Oct. 19-Nov. 19

Although turnout was generally light, there was good discussion at the recent series of meetings statewide **on the MPCA's 2010** impaired waters list. The official public comment period will be Oct. 19 to Nov. 19. Also new to the site are the maps of aquatic life and recreation use for streams and lakes for this assessment cycle. In the Minnesota River Basin, there are 47 new stream impairments and 48 new lake impairments, with a total of 120 river reaches and 101 lakes in the basin that are impaired, needing 420 individual TMDL studies. At the Marshall



Cory Netland (right) and Mark Hanson discuss TMDL projects in the Minnesota River Basin with Jay Gilbertson (left) of the East Dakota Water Development District Oct. 5

meeting Oct. 5, Doug Goodrich, Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Control Area director, said the agency's watershed approach organized over a period of years creates a helpful timeframe. "This should help us to get in step. We'll be re-assessing every 10 years, and we know where we're at on the schedule," Doug says. The presentation and maps from the meetings are now available on the web: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/tmdl/tmdl-303dlist.html>.

St. Paul neighborhood studies Como Lake water quality

After a year on a water policy study committee of the [Citizens League](#), Janna Caywood of St. Paul and who receives this newsletter, launched a neighborhood group to study water quality in Como Lake.

**"We are functioning as a study circle for now** - learning about the causes of Como Lake's water quality struggles - but will soon become an action group working with the watershed district and the city. Our hope is to create a citizen/government partnership and work collaboratively on reducing the amount of polluted stormwater entering our storm sewers." [Story in the Park Bugle](#). The Citizens League water policy study committee report and recommendations will be released this fall. For some historical perspective on the early days of environmental work, check out this [1971 Citizens League report](#) entitled: "Needed: Better Ways of Making Environmental Choices." The Citizens League annual meeting is set for Oct. 29 in Minneapolis. Click [here](#) for details.

EPA Web cast on climate change effects on water resources

EPA's Watershed Academy will present a [Webcast Oct. 27](#) entitled, "Working Together to Address the Effects of Climate Change on Water Resources." EPA's "National Water Program Strategy: Response to Climate Change," posted at [www.epa.gov/ow/climatechange/strategy.html](http://www.epa.gov/ow/climatechange/strategy.html), provides basic information on climate change, the water-related effects of climate change, and the implications for EPA's national water program.

Nine Mile Creek celebrates 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary Sept. 30



**BWSR honors Nine Mile Creek on 50th anniversary**

From left: Bob Kojetin, Manager; Claire Bleser, Education & Outreach Coordinator; Jim Haertel, BWSR; Kevin Bigalke, Administrator; Managers LuAnn Tolliver, Steve Kloiber, Corrine Lynch, and Geoff Nash. About 60 people attended the virtual tour and celebration dinner Sept. 30.

Volunteers collect tons of trash along Crow  
More than 220 volunteers from 16 communities  
Crow River Watershed donated their time Sept. 19 to



River  
across the  
remove more

than 2.5 tons of garbage and debris from the banks of the Crow River and its tributaries. Some unusual items that were collected include: carpet, TV's, computer monitors, decoys, appliances, tires, bed frame, furnace, two vending machines, support beam from a house, highway safety cones, ceramic bird bath, house and garage sale signs, metal ammo box, shopping cart, and siding. In the past 6 years, over 1,573 volunteers from across the watershed have participated in this event, resulting in the removal of over 38.5 tons of garbage. – *CROW E-Currents*

#### Waterfront Bulletin October issue

Check out the October issue of the MPCA [Waterfront Bulletin](#) for funding updates, deadlines: Economic stimulus fund proposals - Oct. 30; water monitoring grant applications - Nov. 6; sustainable practice grant applications - Nov. 3; BWSR grant application period through Dec. 1.

#### E-mail address updates

Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance:

Kay Clark - [kay.clark@windomnet.com](mailto:kay.clark@windomnet.com)

Dave Bucklin - [david.bucklin@windomnet.com](mailto:david.bucklin@windomnet.com)

Chippewa River Watershed Project:

Kylene Olson - [kylene.olson@charterinternet.com](mailto:kylene.olson@charterinternet.com)

Paul Wymar - [paul.wymar@charterinternet.com](mailto:paul.wymar@charterinternet.com)

Jennifer Hoffman - [jennifer.hoffman@charterinternet.com](mailto:jennifer.hoffman@charterinternet.com)

#### Calendar/Outreach

Oct. 20: 7 p.m., Minnesota River Watershed Alliance, Hutchinson Event Center. [Agenda](#)

Through Oct. 3: [Crow River Photo Contest](#).

Nov. 23: 6 p.m., Pomme de Terre Watershed annual public meeting, Old #1 Bar and Grill, 412 Atlantic Avenue (the main street) in Morris. Preliminary agenda:

1. Discuss the approved fecal coliform implementation plan and new EPA implementation grant.
2. Discuss the turbidity TMDL, which is complete and being reviewed by the EPA for approval.
3. Talk about the turbidity implementation plan process slated to begin this winter.
4. Discuss the lake monitoring project.

#### In the News

[Eden Prairie looks to keep storm runoff out of river](#)

Star Tribune, 10/7/09

[Cause of river pollution found to be organic](#)

Faribault County Register, 9/28/09

[Feds to fund Mississippi clean up from Minnesota to the Gulf](#)

Star Tribune, 9/25/09

[Minnesota River erosion wearing on Eden Prairie officials](#)

Sun Newspapers, 9/24/09

#### Watershed Links

[Big Cobb River Watershed Project](#)

[Chippewa River Watershed Project](#)

[Crow River Organization of Water](#)

[Crystal Loon Mills Clean Water Partnership](#)

[Hawk Creek Watershed Project](#)

[High Island Creek Clean Water Partnership](#)

[Lac qui Parle Yellow Bank Watershed District](#)  
[Lower Minnesota Watershed District](#)  
[Maple River Clean Water Partnership](#)  
[Middle Fork Crow Watershed District](#)  
[Nine Mile Creek Watershed District](#)  
[Pomme de Terre River Association](#)  
[Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Control Area](#)  
[Rush River Watershed Project](#)  
[Sauk River Watershed District](#)  
[Three Rivers RC&D](#)  
[Yellow Medicine River Watershed District](#)

## Links

[Minnesota River Watershed Alliance](#)  
[Minnesota River Board](#)  
[Friends of the Minnesota Valley](#)  
[Minnesota River Basin Data Center](#)  
[Minnesota River Valley Scenic Byway](#)  
[Mississippi River Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force](#)  
[MPCA-Minnesota River Basin](#)  
[CURE – Clean Up the River Environment](#)  
[Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River](#)  
[Minnesota Waters](#)  
[EPA – Watershed Central](#)

## Watershed Professionals Network News – Sept. 21, 2009

*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. Contributions of news and information will be greatly appreciated! Your comments and suggestions are welcome. – Forrest Peterson, MPCA-public information, Willmar, 320-441-6972.*

### Minnesota River water quality professionals forum planned for Oct. 1

Invitations are being mailed for the Minnesota River Basin Water Resources Professionals Assembly, **Oct. 1 at Jackpot Junction, Morton, for “advancing a shared vision of future policy and actions for the Basin.”** The forum is intended for water quality professionals including SWCD managers, watershed district administrators, watershed project coordinators, water planners, non-profit directors, and tribal representatives. Topics include: basin management legislation, effective watershed management, future of drainage, amendment funding, LIDAR, and development of an advisory team. For more information contact Susie Carlin, Water Resources Center, Minnesota State University, Mankato.

### Schwalbe comments in Star Tribune story on bank erosion

Terry Schwalbe, Lower Minnesota River Watershed District administrator, was among the sources quoted in a Star [Tribune story Sept. 10, 2009](#), **about bank erosion on the Minnesota River.** “The erosion ‘looks like a big washout, like a slide, a big severe erosion problem in the bend of the river’,” Terry said. “The watershed district has joined in the request for help from the Corps, but also plans its own study of the area that will look at how much storm water and seeping groundwater from the bluff might be contributing to the riverbank erosion.”

### Nine Mile Creek celebrating 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary Sept. 30

The Nine Mile Creek Watershed District is having a fall tour and celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary Sept. 30. **A ‘virtual tour’ will feature 50 years of watershed management highlights. The event begins with a social hour at 5 p.m. at the Park Plaza Hotel in Bloomington, followed by dinner and keynote speaker, Raymond Haik.** The event is free and open to the public, although space is limited. RSVP by Sept. 25 to Kevin Bigalke, 952-835-2078, [kbigalke@ninemilecreek.org](mailto:kbigalke@ninemilecreek.org).

### Rain garden installation Sept. 26 at Mountain Lake

On September 26th, 2009 at 10:00 AM an urban rain garden will be installed as a demonstration project at Bjerum Funeral Home, 420 North 10th Street, Mountain Lake, Minnesota. Staff from Metro Blooms of Minneapolis will be on hand to guide the activities of the day. The project used a Coteau Des Prairies Resource Conservation and Development grant to facilitate the project and pay for the materials. All work will be done by hand and the rain garden should be completed by 2:00 PM. The rain garden will be a boulevard type approximately ten feet by twenty feet in size. The finished depth will be 6 inches, with the curb cut being done at a later date. “We have had a lot of interest in rain gardens and thought this was the best way to get the word out” says David Bucklin of the Cottonwood Soil and Water Conservation District. “The timing could not be better, we have cost share that can be used for urban BMPs through the Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance. This event should jump start that new program”. Everyone is welcome to stop by and watch or bring a shovel and take part! – Dave Bucklin, GBERBA Technical Coordinator, Cottonwood SWCD, [David.Bucklin@MN.nacdnet.net](mailto:David.Bucklin@MN.nacdnet.net).

### Brooke Patterson takes Brown County post; Joel Wurscher adds Rush River duties

As of Sept. 2 Brooke Patterson resigned as the Rush River Watershed coordinator, taking a position in Brown County as the Recycling/Water Plan/Wetlands Administrator. Joel Wurscher, the High Island

Creek Clean Water Partnership Coordinator, will be adding the Rush River work to his current position, with the title Watershed Grants Coordinator. Please contact Joel with any Rush River questions, (507) 237-4050, [joelw@co.sibley.mn.us](mailto:joelw@co.sibley.mn.us).

#### Report summarizes research on sediment in Minnesota River Basin

A multi-agency group recently issued a report summarizing current **research on sediment in the Minnesota River Basin**. The “**Identifying Sediment Sources in the Minnesota River Basin**” was reviewed at the Aug. 27 stakeholder meeting of the Minnesota River turbidity TMDL project by main author, Peter Wilcock, Johns Hopkins University. The report, a 2-page summary, and slide presentation are available on the Web at: [www.pca.state.mn.us/water/tmdl/project-mnriver-turbidity.html](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/tmdl/project-mnriver-turbidity.html) . Much evidence indicates that most of the sediment entering Lake Pepin comes from the Minnesota River Basin, and that the rate of sediment supply has increased ten-fold over the past 150 **years**. The **basin’s geological history**, climate, and land use are primary factors. The report cites other findings and the need for more research.



#### Waterfront Bulletin September issue

September issue of the MPCA [Waterfront Bulletin](#) features the availability of \$2 million in grant money for lake and stream monitoring projects. High-priority areas include the following watersheds: Thief River, Big Fork, Sandhill River, Crow Ring River, Redeye River, Bois de Sioux River, Long Prairie River, Lake Superior (South), Nemadji River, Mustinka River, Minnesota River in the Granite Falls area, Big Sioux River, Cannon River, Rock River, Little Sioux River, and Mississippi River in the Twin Cities and Winona areas. For more information contact Ron Schwartz, MPCA, 651-757-2708 or [CWLA.surfacewater@pca.state.mn.us](mailto:CWLA.surfacewater@pca.state.mn.us). Details are also available at the MPCA Web site at [www.pca.state.mn.us/water/swagrant.html](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/swagrant.html). Grant proposals are due Nov. 6 at 4 p.m.

#### [MPCA approves \\$6 million in grants for water quality projects](#)

News release, Sept. 2, 2009

#### Information meetings start Sept. 28 for draft 2010 impaired waters list

A series of information meetings on the draft 2010 impaired waters list (CWA section 303d) begins **Sept. 28 at the MPCA office in St. Paul. The meetings will describe the agency’s watershed approach** for monitoring and scheduling Total Maximum Daily Load projects. Regional meetings include: Sept. 29-Detroit Lakes MPCA, Sept. 30-Brainerd MPCA, Oct. 1-Duluth MPCA, Oct. 5-Marshall MPCA, Oct. 6-Blue Earth Library-Mankato, Oct. 7-Rochester MPCA. Meeting times are 1-3 p.m., except Marshall, 2-4 p.m.

#### EPA launches TMDL program results analysis Web site

EPA has developed a new Web site to communicate information about Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Program results to technically specialized audiences, including TMDL developers, state water programs, academia, other federal agency programs, and EPA water quality staff. The Web site provides a Clean Water Act Impaired Waters Program Pipeline navigation feature, fact

sheets, EPA reports and Web sites, EPA grantee reports and Web sites, publications, and datasets related to this effort. The TMDL Program Results Analysis Web site is available at <http://www.epa.gov/owow/tmdl/results>

### Hawk Creek Watershed Project picnic Sept. 11

The Hawk Creek Watershed Project hosted its third annual appreciation picnic Sept. 11 for project partners, active citizens and landowners alongside the creek at Lions Park in Maynard. The event has developed into an annual affair in which supporters of the Hawk Creek Watershed Project can meet, enjoy some grilled foods and good conversation, while also informally network to discuss issues related to the mission of the project. **"While no formal presentation was made, the event was successful with 34 attending to strengthen partnerships and share ideas in a casual setting,"** says Cory Netland, project coordinator. **"It is a testament to the success of the project in involving partners and citizens, and events such as this go a long ways toward nurturing those relationships."**



Dean Dambrotten (red shirt), Hawk Creek Watershed Project technician, works the grill at the project's annual picnic Sept. 11 at Lions Park in Maynard.

### Calendar/Outreach

Sept. 22-24 – Wright SWCD educational field days, Ney County Park. Staff from Crow River Organization of Water among presenters. CROW staff also participated at the Clean Water Fair Sept. 17, sponsored by the Wright Hennepin Clean Water Resource Association and city of Independence.  
Sept. 23 – Three Rivers water festival.  
Sept. 25 – Lower Sauk water festival.  
Sept. 24-25 – [Land Conservation and Clean Water Summit](#), Minnesota Arboretum.  
Sept. 30 – [Nine Mile Creek fall tour and 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner](#), Park Plaza Hotel, Bloomington.  
Oct. 1 – Minnesota River Basin Water Resource Professionals Assembly, Jackpot Junction, Redwood Falls  
Oct. 3 – 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Minnesota River clean-up, Belle Plaine, Fountain Park. Lunch provided.  
Information: 651.259.5630 or 651.259.5620.  
Through Oct. 31 – [Crow River Photo Contest](#).

### Watershed Links

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[Minnesota Waters](#)  
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## Watershed Professionals Network News – Aug. 20, 2009

*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. Contributions of news and information will be greatly appreciated! Your comments and suggestions are welcome. – Forrest Peterson, MPCA-public information, Willmar, 320-441-6972.*

### Three Rivers RC&D promotes third crops at FarmFest

Joe Domeier represented the [Three Rivers RC&D](#) at a display booth in the new *Agripreneurship* tent at FarmFest Aug. 4-6. The Greater Blue Earth River Watershed is one of the many project areas for Three Rivers. Their display at FarmFest promoted third crops and sustainable farming activities that create economic value while doing a better job of protecting and conserving land and water resources **than conventional “row crop” agriculture. Practicing** what they preach, Joe and his wife, Liza, sell pasture-raised livestock from 30 acres west of Nicollet. A Minnesota State-Mankato graduate in environmental science and urban studies, Joe has been a program manager with the RC&D for about four years. Lisa Buckner is coordinator of the Three Rivers RC&D, with offices in Mankato and one of [eight in Minnesota](#). The RC&D program was established by the USDA in 1962 “to accelerate the conservation, development, and utilization of natural resources to improve the general level of economic activity, and to enhance the environment and standard of living in authorized RC&D areas.” The three rivers giving the RC&D its name are the Blue Earth, Watonwan, and LeSueur; counties participating include Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, LeSueur, Martin, Nicollet, Sibley, Waseca, and Watonwan.



Joe Domeier, right, discusses a pamphlet with a visitor to the Three Rivers RC&D booth at FarmFest.

### Minnesota River Board award recognizes Mary Homan, Jim Doering

Mary Homan and Jim Doering received the annual recognition awards at the Minnesota River Board's annual meeting July 27 in Redwood Falls. Mary received the Minnesota River Tributary Award, which recognizes contributions to BMP implementation, watershed management innovations, and citizen outreach. She is coordinator for the Lac qui Parle Yellow Bank Watershed District, where she works closely with various state and local staff and programs to assist residents in the installation of best management practices to improve and enhance water quality from backyards to large fields – from individual septic systems to commercial feed lots. Mary has also been very active in educational outreach. Jim received the Minnesota River Confluence Award, which recognizes leadership and a demonstrated capacity to develop partnerships. Formerly director of the Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Control Area, he is now with the Redwood Falls public works department. As part of his RCRCA position, he worked closely with soil and water conservation district managers and staff, Area II Flood Control efforts, county, state, and federal staff, as well as building relationships with landowners, elected officials, and conservation peers.

Minnesota River water quality professionals forum planned for Oct. 1

The Minnesota River Board is planning a "Minnesota River Basin Water Quality Professionals Forum" for "Creating a shared vision of future policy and actions for the Minnesota River Basin," Thursday, Oct. 1, at Jackpot Junction, Redwood Falls. The forum is intended for SWCD managers, watershed district administrators, watershed project coordinators, water planners, non-profit directors, and tribal representatives. Potential topics include: Agricultural drainage, funding strategies, 3/8th amendment, rule enforcement, civic engagement, and LIDAR. Invitations will be mailed out in early September.

#### Crow River volunteer monitors use online data entry system

The CROW (Crow River Organization of Water) has been working with the Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District on a project to improve their volunteer monitoring program. The project, funded through the Clean Water Legacy program, enabled them to set up an online data entry system. "We are very excited about this addition to our volunteer program," says Diane Sander, CROW coordinator. "Volunteers are able to enter and submit their citizen stream and lake monitoring data online. They are assigned a User ID and password. Once in the system, they have the option to enter data or review their data from the previous year." The online system has reduced staff time from entering volunteer data into the computer and allowed them to review data with a better chance of noticing anything unusual and following up more readily. Web site: [www.crowriver.org](http://www.crowriver.org). Click on Volunteer Monitoring tab at the top right of the page; click on Volunteer Data Entry.

#### Star Tribune article generates local media call in Hutchinson

The article on buffer zones in the July 29 Star Tribune

(<http://www.startribune.com/local/52031387.html?elr=KArksUUUoDEy3LGDio7aiU>)

"is causing a lot of noise in our field," says Dan Nadeau, **CROW watershed technician**. "I got a call from the local paper (Hutchinson Leader) wanting to know about the South Fork and Buffalo Creek and if we have the same issues there."

#### RCRCA sets public meetings on TMDL projects

Redwood – Cottonwood Rivers Control Area (RCRCA) is holding two public meetings to kick-off the turbidity TMDL in the Redwood and Cottonwood River watersheds. Meetings are at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 19, University of Minnesota Southwest Research and Outreach Center, Lamberton; and Thursday, Aug. 20, MPCA office in Marshall. Each meeting will include a review of the TMDL process, water quality data that led to the impairment listing and a presentation by Scott Bohling of the Water Resources Center at Minnesota State University-Mankato on the modeling process used for the Minnesota River Turbidity TMDL. Seven reaches of the Cottonwood and four reaches of the Redwood Rivers have been identified as impaired for turbidity. RCRCA will be writing the report, implementation plan and working with the Water Resources Center at Minnesota State University – Mankato on the modeling portion of this TMDL. A draft TMDL is scheduled to be completed in 2010. For more information contact Shawn Wohnoutka, [shawn.wohnoutka@racgroup.net](mailto:shawn.wohnoutka@racgroup.net).

#### Yellow Medicine staff to attend MAWD leadership workshop

Cindy Potz and several board members of the Yellow Medicine River Watershed District plan to **attend the Minnesota Association of Watershed District's** leadership workshop Sept. 11-12 at the Alexandria Holiday Inn. Session 1 is "How to Stay out of Jail," discussing financial and legal issues for watersheds, presented by Nancy Bode and John Kolb; Session 2 is "Roles and Responsibilities - Minimizing Conflict," presented by the University of Minnesota Extension agency; and Session 3 is "How to Herd Cats," seven traps that boards fall into, presented by Cindy Bigger, University of Minnesota Extension. "We are looking forward to learning more about successfully and skillfully

managing our roles and responsibilities,” **Cindy says**. More Information can be found on the MAWD Web site: [www.mnwatershed.org](http://www.mnwatershed.org).

#### Crow River offers shoreland workshop Aug. 21

The Crow River Watershed District is presenting a shoreland restoration maintenance workshop at 12:30 p.m., Friday, Aug. 21 at the New London City Park. The workshop will cover:

1. The value of restoring your shoreline.
2. How to maintain shoreland restoration projects/natural shorelines.
3. Actual site visits to three different shoreland restoration projects of varying ages.

For registration information see the attached documents or go to their Web site at [www.mfcrow.org](http://www.mfcrow.org).

#### Colorado Watershed Assembly formed in 1999

Similar to Oregon, Colorado also has a statewide organization representing watershed organizations. The Colorado Watershed Assembly is a statewide coalition of 72 watershed organizations formed in 1999 **“to support the efforts of individual and non-profit community groups statewide working to conserve and enhance the natural resources of local watersheds,” and “to support watershed organizations around the state and to amplify their collective voices.”** <http://www.coloradowater.org/>

#### Waterfront Bulletin August issue

Check out the list of projects receiving 319 funds for Developmental, Education and Research (DER) and TMDL Implementation projects in the August issue of the MPCA [Waterfront Bulletin](#).

#### Calendar/Outreach

Sept. 11 – Hawk Creek appreciation picnic, 11:30 a.m., Lions Park, Maynard

Sept. 19 – 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Crow River Clean-Up Day.

Through Sept. 15 – Chippewa River Photo Contest.

Oct. 1 - Minnesota River Basin Water Quality Professionals Forum, Jackpot Junction, Redwood Falls

Through Oct. 31 – [Crow River Photo Contest](#).

#### Watershed Links

[Chippewa River Watershed Project](#)

[Crow River Organization of Water](#)

[Crystal Loon Mills Clean Water Partnership](#)

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[EPA – Watershed Central](#)

## Watershed Professionals Network News - July 16, 2009

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### **'Friends' promotes 'conservation' drainage at FarmFest**

[Friends of the Minnesota Valley](#) is staging its conservation draining initiative for the second year at FarmFest Aug. 4-6. "We weren't getting enough people" at previous locations for the Rural Land Opportunities show, says Scott Sparlin, so last year it was moved to [FarmFest's AgriPreneurship Pavilion](#) in a large tent on the south end of the grounds. "We helped with organizing the tent along with our partners involved in the past Rural Land Opportunities Shows. The [Agricultural Drainage Management Coalition](#) and [AgriDrain Corp.](#) of Iowa, along with Minnesota Department of Agriculture, the Minnesota River Board, and CURE are key partners in our initiative designed to make the greater public aware of drainage options that exist today for producers," Scott says. "Friends" is also applying for a 319 grant for drainage demonstration sites, which would include reinstalling field tile and controlled outlet structures. The conservation drainage project also conducts workshops at three locations each March.

### **Catching Stormwater One Barrel at a Time**

The High Island Creek (Joel Wurscher) and Rush River (Brooke Patterson) watersheds have recently started a free rain barrel program for watershed residents. Created by watershed staff with assistance from some project partners for \$20 each, it was an easy decision to offer them for free. So far each watershed has given away about half of their 50 barrels. Each barrel comes with a handbook created by the watersheds with information on barrel maintenance, placement and decoration. If you are interested in starting a rain barrel program in your watershed, check out the following links on rain barrels and how to make them. You can also email Joel at [joelw@co.sibley.mn.us](mailto:joelw@co.sibley.mn.us), or Brooke at [brookep@co.sibley.mn.us](mailto:brookep@co.sibley.mn.us) for more information.

How to make a rain barrel videos:

<http://www.finegardening.com/how-to/videos/build-a-rain-barrel.aspx>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MGFDiKJOdaM>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m4zoPm2Eu2Q&feature=related>

Parts list examples and how-to guides:

[http://images.taunton.com/finegardening/media/rain\\_barrel\\_parts.pdf](http://images.taunton.com/finegardening/media/rain_barrel_parts.pdf)

<http://home.comcast.net/~leavesdance/rainbarrels/construction.html>

[http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/publications/files/rain\\_barrels\\_guide.pdf](http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/publications/files/rain_barrels_guide.pdf) - 1.65 mb



### **Lake Shaokatan TMDL meeting July 2 draws a crowd**

A larger-than-expected attendance of about 65 people led to lively discussion July 2 at a public information meeting for the Total Maximum Daily Load project on nutrients for [Lake Shaokatan](#). After scrambling to find more seating, "the meeting went well," says district administrator Cindy Potz. Representatives from the [Minnesota Agricultural Water Resources Coalition](#) had many questions and comments about the draft report, prepared for the [Yellow Medicine River Watershed District](#) by

Schuler Environmental Engineering. The draft TMDL report is on public notice through Aug. 5. Lake Shaokatan is located in Lincoln County, about 30 miles west of Marshall.

### Hawk Creek installs woodchip biofilter, rain garden

Water from a subsurface drain tile near Willmar will now be filtered through a **woodchip "bioreactor"** that removes nitrogen and phosphorus ([Fact sheet, 3mb](#)). The Hawk Creek Watershed Project installed the demonstration project June 23 treating a six-acre portion of a cornfield. The filtered tile water will be monitored to determine reductions in sediment and nutrients. The cost is estimated at \$1,800. "We are anxious to see what the results are in the next few years," says Hawk Creek coordinator Cory Netland. "We are in the midst of our monitoring season, including our lake sampling that is funded through a Surface Water Assessment Grant (SWAG). Between this grant and the Long Lake TMDL grant they are sampling 9 different sites on 7 lakes." Also, on July 14, they assisted the city of Olivia with planting a rain garden. The rain garden will be treating runoff from a city-owned housing development with a large parking lot on the south edge of town, west of Hwy. 71. "This project has been in the works since last fall and it is exciting to put the finishing touches on it!" Cory says.



Dean Dambrot, left, of Hawk Creek Watershed Project, and Loren Engelby, Kandiyohi County ditch inspector, work on the field tile biofilter installation near Willmar.

### Snowmelt sustains Chippewa River for June 13 canoe-kayak excursion

A flotilla of colorful kayaks and canoes carried more than 20 people on an 8-plus mile stretch of the Chippewa River June 13, from Big Bend to County Road 12. The event, sponsored by the Chippewa River Watershed Project, drew people from a wide area ranging from Willmar, to Alexandria, and Montevideo. Mild, sunny weather and a brisk current combined for a relaxing, pleasant, 2-1/2-hour paddle, priming appetites for a box lunch at the finish. While low flow has scuttled plans for some late spring-early summer paddling trips down other Minnesota River tributaries, according to Chippewa watershed scientist Paul Wymar, remnants of winter snowmelt sustained the Chippewa mid-June water level.



### Kylene Olson shares expertise on prairie flora and fauna

In addition to her water quality work as director of the Chippewa River Watershed Project, Kylene Olson is also an expert on prairie flora and fauna. On July 9 she ventured into the Hawk Creek Watershed to lead tours of native prairie on a farm west of Montevideo. The "Hooves and Wings" Farm Field Day was co-sponsored by Pheasants Forever and Land Stewardship Project on Richard Handeen and Audrey Arner's [Moonstone Farm](#), transformed over the years from conventional row-crop agriculture into a diversified enterprise with grass-fed beef, herbs, grapes, and vegetables.



A team of Belgian horses pulled a tour wagon to the Moonstone Farm native prairie where Kylene Olson (right) of the Chippewa Watershed Project described flora and fauna.

### MPCA launches Impaired Waters Viewer: IWAV

A new tool called the Impaired Waters Viewer or IWAV **allows you to "Google" a Minnesota town and see the nearest impaired water.** The web-based mapping application provides access to basic, essential information about impaired waters in Minnesota in an easy to use geospatial context. IWAV uses the MPCA impaired waters spatial data layers for streams, lakes and wetlands together with base map data from Google maps. The IWAV can be viewed in a standard web browser and opens with a view of Minnesota, with pan and zoom tools, a search tool: **when the user types in the name of a city, town or county and clicks the 'map search' button, the map zooms in to the specified location, an identify tool: when the user clicks their cursor on an impaired stream, lake or wetland, a window opens with information about the water body including name, description, ID number, water quality problems that need a TMDL, and water quality problems that have an approved TMDL.** – *MPCA Waterfront Bulletin, July 2009*

### WaterFront Bulletin extra: Details on CWP request for proposal

The full Request for Proposals for Clean Water Partnership funds is scheduled for publication in the State Register July 20. Look for details in a WaterFront Bulletin extra edition that week. To sign up for the WaterFront Bulletin, a web-based newsletter for watershed projects, go to: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/tmdl/waterfront/index.html>.

### Good news/bad news on the proposed August barge tour

The federal economic stimulus program must be working, says Terry Schwalbe of the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District. This is good news for the economy but not such good news for the barge tour that he had been working on for August. "The operators who we work with in the barge industry have all of their tow boats committed to projects in the Winona and Lacrosse area of the river, and there is also a shortage of quality barges in the Upper Mississippi River Basin," Terry says. "I have been working with them but they are unable to make a firm date commitment due to logistics. Therefore with great regret we will not be able to sponsor a river tour this year. I am budgeting for a tour next season and hopefully the Board will keep it in the budget."

## National, state, local perspectives at River Board meeting

The [Minnesota River Board's](#) annual meeting July 27 features a dynamic set of speakers in the afternoon, including acclaimed author and photographer, [Tim Palmer](#). The **"Water Conservation and River Protection" program also includes Val Little**, director of the Water Conservation Alliance of Southern Arizona, Sara Smith, environmental planner for the [Twin Cities Metropolitan Council](#), and Jim Doering, city of Redwood Falls public works, and former director of the Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Control Area. Register in advance with Karnell Johnson, 507-389-5491, [karnell.johnson@mnsu.edu](mailto:karnell.johnson@mnsu.edu). A \$20 fee, which includes lunch, will be collected at the door.

## Calendar/Outreach

July 21 – Minnesota River Watershed Alliance, 7 p. m. (6 p.m. social hour), Hutchinson Event Center.

July 27 – Minnesota River Board annual meeting, 9 a.m., Redwood Falls Community Center.

Sept. 19 – 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Crow River Clean-Up Day.

Through Oct. 31 – [Crow River Photo Contest](#).

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[Maple River Clean Water Partnership](#)

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[Nine Mile Creek Watershed District](#)

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[Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Control Area](#)

[Rush River Watershed Project](#)

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## Links

[Minnesota River Watershed Alliance](#)

[Minnesota River Board](#)

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[Minnesota River Basin Data Center](#)

[Minnesota River Valley Scenic Byway](#)

[Mississippi River Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force](#)

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## Watershed Professionals Network News - June 5, 2009

*Welcome to the first edition of what we hope to establish as 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. Contributions of news and information will be greatly appreciated! Your comments and suggestions are welcome. – Forrest Peterson, MPCA-public information, Willmar, 320-441-6972.*

- Lower Minnesota barge tour in works for August
- Intern monitoring 252 sites in Chippewa watershed
- Lakes, biofilters among Hawk Creek projects
- MPCA working on TSS standard that may replace turbidity standard
- MPCA 2008 water quality monitoring summary, 2009 overview
- Nonpoint source news resources from EPA
- Network of Oregon Watershed Councils
- Calendar/Outreach
- Watershed Links

### Lower Minnesota barge tour in works for August

The [Lower Minnesota Watershed District](#) board recently approved sponsoring a barge tour sometime in mid to late August. District administrator Terry Schwalbe is busy planning the details, which will be available in the near future. The barge will be equipped with a large tent sunshade and portable toilets. There will be a registration fee in the \$10 to \$15 range. Along with keynote speaker, former barge deckhand Greg Genz, there will be plenty of room for small displays by individual watershed projects and districts, and time for networking. Refreshments will be provided. More details later.



### Intern monitoring 252 sites in Chippewa watershed

Zach Bothun is a summer intern with the [Chippewa River Watershed Project](#) who will be monitoring virtually all transects on the Chippewa and tributaries – 252 in all – measuring DO, temperature, pH, specific conductivity, and transparency, plus chemical analysis at 17 sites. The work is funded by a two-year, \$75,000 surface water assessment grant. **“We’ll be one of the most monitored systems in the state,” says executive director Kylene Olson.**

### Lakes, biofilters among Hawk Creek projects

A TMDL project for nutrients in Long Lake north of Willmar has rekindled citizen interest in resurrecting a lake association. After attending TMDL information meetings with the [Hawk Creek Watershed Project](#), lake property owners did some research and discovered some funding still earmarked for a former lake association, which could be accessed if they re-organize. **“It’s great to see such interested stakeholders,” says HCWP coordinator Cory Netland. “We’re just there to support it.”** In addition to sampling on Long Lake and Ringo Lake as part of the Long Lake TMDL assessment grant, HCWP is also conducting the second year of sampling on five other lakes north of Willmar as part of a surface water assessment grant. The watershed project also is working with Kandiyohi County Public

Works and BWSR on two woodchip biofilters for treating tile drainage from a farm field northeast of Willmar. One site will treat water that outlets off of an agricultural field, while the other site will treat runoff from an area that has a pasture as well as residential homes. This will provide data on pollutant reductions on two areas of differing land use. HCWP will be providing cost-share and may be involved in sampling.

### MPCA working on TSS standard that may replace turbidity standard

As part of **the MPCA's** triennial review of water quality standards, staff have been working for several months on draft total suspended solids (TSS) standards that may replace the current turbidity standard for aquatic life protection. Reasons include standardization (several types of meters are used to measure turbidity, and they produce differing results), ability to work with a mass-based parameter for which loads can be calculated, better integration of frequency and duration considerations, and the opportunity to address geographic variability through an ecoregion framework. The group has also evaluated the possibility of a new aquatic recreation-based transparency standard.

### MPCA 2008 water quality monitoring summary, 2009 overview

This report includes information on the following monitoring activities in 2008: lakes, milestones, biological and water chemistry (streams), major watershed load, ambient wetland, ambient trace metal, ambient groundwater, Surface Water Assessment Grants, and Citizen Lake and Stream Monitoring Programs. <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/publications/wq-gen1-01.pdf>

### Nonpoint source news resources from EPA

NPSINFO e-Forum Resource Center: <http://www.epa.gov/nps/npsinfo/>

View or print out a [fact sheet \(PDF\)](#) on the NPSINFO Electronic Mailing List. (2 pp, 800K, [NPSINFO Sample Queries and Responses](#) : On this page you will find handy information on NPSINFO, EPA's electronic mailing list for discussing nonpoint source pollution (NPS) control issues. A community of more than 1,700 individuals from federal, state, and local government and numerous public and private organizations uses NPSINFO to share information.

### Network of Oregon Watershed Councils

**In Oregon they're called watershed councils. Nearly 70 joined in support of a formal organization "dedicated to supporting the work of watershed councils ... by focusing on three principles agreed to by watershed councils statewide.** [www.oregonwatersheds.org/](http://www.oregonwatersheds.org/)

- Help build watershed council capacity through training, information sharing, funding and internal communication.
- Work to improve key relationships with watershed council partners.
- Promote public awareness of watersheds and watershed councils.

### Calendar/Outreach

June 20 – [Riverfest Rendezvous](#), Montevideo, 320-269-2984 or -8274.

June 25 – Conservation practice bus tour, Chippewa River Watershed Project. Lunch included with RSVP, call 320-269-2139 ext 120 or email [Jennifer](#)

Sept. 19 – 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Crow River Clean-Up Day.

Through Oct. 31 – [Crow River Photo Contest](#).

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