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Citizens protecting
and improving our
lakes & rivers

The Confluence

The monthly e-newsletter of Minnesota Waters



November 2010

Let Your Legislators Know Your Priorities for Lake and Stream Protection **In This Issue**

Earlier this month, Minnesotans headed to the polls to exercise our democracy and determine our 2011 legislature. Whether your legislators have been in office for years or will just begin representing your district, now is the time to reach them and share your priorities for healthy lakes and rivers. It's also a good idea to offer to help your legislator by being available to answer questions on lake and stream issues that they may not be familiar with. This is a good way to get on their list of "go-to" constituents.

Most legislators are still spending plenty of time in-district before the session begins and will likely have greater availability to schedule an in-person community meeting or to attend a lake association gathering. Take this opportunity to ensure that your voice and concerns are forefront in their minds as they head to St. Paul in January.

The [Legislative District Finder](#), which already includes many of the newly elected representatives, can help you retrieve your list of representatives and their contact information. And the [2011-2012 Minnesota House of Representatives Members-Elect](#) lists the election results for all house and senate members by district.

We're all well aware of the state's budget constraints, yet many of the lake and stream protection initiatives facing the legislature require no additional funding, and in some cases include significant savings. Ask your representatives to support:

[Let Your Legislators Know Your Priorities](#)

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MN Waters Events

[Crosby Lake 2nd Citizen Advisory Group Meeting](#)

[2011 Lakes and Rivers Conference](#)

Other Events

[8th International Lake of the Woods Water Quality Forum](#)

[Midwest Aquatic Plant Management Society 2011 Conference](#)

- the adoption of the updated statewide shoreland rules, which were created when the legislature appropriated over a million dollars for a much needed update.
- the inclusion of aquatic invasive species funding through the Clean Water Fund, which resulted from the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment that Minnesotans voted for in 2008.
- Monitoring the spending of the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment monies and their original intent to protect, enhance, and restore Minnesota's lakes, streams and lands.
- Monitoring the Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems (SSTS) Implementation and Enforcement Task Force that was created by the legislature this past year.
- the development of a statewide plan to inventory all septic systems and upgrade all failing systems.
- the long term vision needed to sustain healthy lakes and rivers, which provide recreational opportunities, vibrant local economies, and the quality of life so unique to Minnesota.

Minnesota Waters Gives Thanks

As we celebrate this season of Thanksgiving, the staff and board of Minnesota Waters would like to thank all the individuals, lake associations, river groups, corporations and foundations who have given us financial support in 2010.

Your support makes it possible for us to provide **training, connections** and **support** to turn citizen *concern* into citizen *action* for healthy lakes and rivers.

A special thank you to those who made donations during the recent GiveMN.org Give to the Max! Day on November 16.

Aquatic Plant Control Experts Present to MN Waters Members

MN Waters and MN DNR hosted a meeting of aquatic invasive plant control experts and concerned MN citizens at a special after-hours event November 9, during the recent MN WI Invasive Species Conference in St. Paul. Dr. John Madsen, Mississippi State University, and Dr. Michael Netherland, US Army Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC), Gainesville, FL, and Mr. John Skogerboe, ERDC, Spring Valley, WI answered questions that the audience had submitted in advance.

The purpose of the meeting was to convene concerned citizens

[Red River Basin Land and Water Summit](#)

Other Water Resource News

[Small Businesses Get Free Environmental Help from Award-Winning State Program](#)

[Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment Logo Design Contest](#)

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from lakes in Minnesota, with experience in attempts to control Eurasian watermilfoil, curly-leaf pondweed, flowering rush, and other invasive aquatic plants with use of herbicides, to hear from national experts about management techniques used in other areas of the country, and other technical information about aquatic plant control.

The notes from this meeting will soon be available on the MN Waters website and on the DNR website. This event is part of the MN Waters' 2010-2011 AIS Action Plan, and will be followed by events in early 2011 to address issues of aquatic plant management processes and policy with the DNR, and a forum to increase legislator's awareness of the problem of AIS.

Marian Bender on Lakeland Currents

Minnesota Waters' Executive Director Marian Bender gave an outstanding appearance on "Lakeland Currents," a regional television program, on Thursday, October 28, 2010 at 7:30 pm. With host Ray Gildow, Marian discussed the importance of engaged citizens working for their local lake and river, as well as the need for stronger statewide shoreland rules and agency support of citizen action.

For those of you who missed it, you can watch it online at www.lptv.org

We Believe

that hands-on citizen action is the single best assurance that future generations will still be able to enjoy Minnesota's clean lakes and rivers.

Please show your support by responding to our recent mailing or visiting our website to make your tax-deductible gift today!
www.minnesotawaters.org.

Minnesota Waters Closed Thanksgiving Week

Please note that all MN Waters offices will be closed during the week of November 22-26 for the Thanksgiving Holiday and cost-savings furlough.



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