



Watershed District

Board of Managers



Jim Kral Virgil Rettig



Bob Mostad Jim Rothstein



Jason Scherping Vernon Vangness



Dan Coughlin Larry Kuseske



Todd Foster

Staff



Holly Kovarik, Administrator



Heather Lehmkuhl Melissa Roelike



Mike Hayman Starla Arceneau



Adam Hjelm Lynn Nelson



Tara Borgerding

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Visit us online at:

www.srwdmn.org

Sauk River Watershed District Newsletter

June 2010

Sauk River Watershed District Updates

Greetings,

This past weekend, I was out biking with my family along the Lake, and I am struck each time by the sheer inspiring beauty of our natural world.

It really doesn't get any better than getting outdoors and enjoying a beautiful sunset overlooking a magnificent lake, stream, or wetland.

Summer is a wonderful time to get outdoors and enjoy the wonderful sights. There are many locations right off your back door to enjoy. The Sauk River Watershed area has many sights to be explored. I encourage you this summer to get out and experience this for yourself.

I have included to the right some interesting facts about watersheds and the Sauk River Watershed.

We are very fortunate to have such wonderful natural resources in central Minnesota.

So as you are out this summer take some time to enjoy the natural wonders that can be found right out your back door.



The Sauk River is a DNR Canoe Route

The Sauk River is categorized as a navigable canoe route by the MN DNR. The River begins at the outlet of Lake Osakis and meanders 125 miles to outlet in the Mississippi River in St. Cloud.

The River drops 328 feet from its initial elevation of 1,320 feet above sea level at the headwaters to 992 feet above sea level where it joins the Mississippi River.

The River appeals to all levels of recreational canoeing .

This summer, the Sauk River Watershed District will canoe the Middle Sauk region which encompasses a 65 mile stretch of the river.

The information gathered will help the SRWD to determine where erosion is occurring and restoration is needed. The data captured will also help to aid in the efforts for future grant funding applications.

Specifically we will be estimating the soil loss, and marking the sites for historical data. The information gathered will help determine if the erosion is coming from natural processes or from other sources.

A full description of the Sauk River Canoe route can be found at www.mndnr.gov/watert_trails.

Did you know this about the Sauk River Watershed?

- The watershed is 75 miles in length and up to 20-30 miles wide in areas.
- The watershed covers 667,000 acres or approximately 1,041 square miles.
- # of Lakes by County: Douglas (26), Meeker, (0), Pope (13), Stearns (139), Todd (65) (243 lakes total covering 35,700 acres).
- 1,800 miles of streams and rivers.
- The Sauk River drops about 340 feet in elevation from Lake Osakis to the Mississippi River and meanders over 120 miles in length.
- The headwaters of the Sauk River is Osakis Lake (largest lake in the watershed covering 6,768 acres) .
- There are 3 major dams along the River.

Calendar of Summer Events

District Staff will be involved in the following list of events. Stop by and see what we have to offer or let us know what issues are concerning you about water quality within the watershed.

Summer Events Schedule

June 1-4	SHORE Program—Albany High School
June 12	Sinclair Lewis Rain Garden Workshop (Tentative)
June 26	Friends of the Sauk River Canoe Event—(Not an SRWD Event)
July 16-18	River Lakes Days—Richmond
July 17	Sinclair Lewis Days Parade—Sauk Centre
July 26	SRWD Board of Managers Pontoon Tour
July 29-31	Todd County Fair—Long Prairie
July 29-31	Stearns County Fair—Sauk Centre
August 5-7	Meeker County Fair—Litchfield
August 11-15	Pope County Fair—Glenwood
August 19-21	Douglas County Fair—Alexandria
August 21	Riverfest Parade—Melrose
August 25	SRWD Summer Tour



SRWD Board Meeting Schedule

SRWD Board meetings are held the third Tuesday of every month at the District office unless posted otherwise. Public is welcome to attend.

May 18	7:00 pm
June 15	7:00 pm
July 26	5:00 pm
August 17	7:00 pm
September 21	7:00 pm
October 19	7:00 pm
November 16	7:00 pm
December 21	7:00 pm

Todd Foster Appointed to SRWD Board of Managers

Stearns County Commissioners appointed Todd Foster as a representative on the Sauk River Watershed District Board during the May 18th board meeting.

Todd joins eight other managers representing five counties on this board. The Sauk River Watershed District includes parts of Stearns, Todd, Douglas, Meeker, and Pope Counties. Todd is one of four



representatives from Stearns. The other three representatives for Stearns County include: Dan Coughlin, Jason Scherping, and Jim Rothstein. Representing Todd County is Jim Kral and Vern Vangness. Representing Pope County is Larry Kuseske. Representing Douglas County is Bob Mostad and representing Meeker County is Virgil Rettig.

Todd's appointment will expire June 30, 2013. Managers to the Sauk River Watershed District Board are appointed by county commissioners in each respective county. More information about the appointment process can be accessed by visiting the Board of Water and Soil Resources website at www.bwsr.state.mn.us. State laws regarding appointments of Managers are found in Minnesota Statutes section 103D.311.

SRWD Summer Tour



The District will be hosting a tour this year which will focus on projects in the Middle Sauk area. This tour is a chance for District residents to see some of the projects that the SRWD and willing landowners have partnered on to improve water quality.

Participants will have a chance to see some of the projects that we have provided funding assistance on. Many of these projects focus on agricultural Best Management Practices as well as Shoreland Restoration. Come along and learn how the SRWD has worked to improve your water quality!

Sinclair Lewis Rain Garden Workshop & Demonstration

Do you want to install a rain garden on your property but just need to know where to start? Join us for our workshop & demonstration!

The SRWD will be teaming up with the City of Sauk Centre to hold a rain garden workshop. Residents may participate in this workshop which will focus on rain garden installation from start-to-finish. Lecture topics will focus on the technical aspects of rain garden design such as calculating the size of your garden and understanding how soil effects your garden design. Participants will then have a chance to install the rain garden from start-to-finish and gain the know-how to install a garden on their own property.



Friends of the Sauk River—Canoe Event



Promote ~ Paddle ~ Protect

Looking for a fun way to enjoy the many scenic stretches of the Sauk River? Come and explore the beauty of this water resource!

The Friends of the Sauk River will be hosting a canoe event to do just that. Participants have the option of a 10-mile trip or a five-mile trip. Canoes will be provided to anyone who would like to participate, or you can bring your own. Buses will be available to transport you back to your car at the end of your paddle. Restrooms will be provided at drop-off points.

Join us for a great day on the Sauk! Mark your calendars for June 26th.

District Fairs and Parades

The SRWD will once again be holding a booth at each of the County Fairs within the District. County Fairs and city parades are a great way for the District to interact with resident and inform them of the many programs we offer.

In 2009, the District fair booth theme was centered on the benefits of water conservation through rain barrels and rain gardens and offered information to residents on how to install these practices on their properties. This year the District booth will focus on Backyard Conservation and the many practices you can do every day to improve your water quality and enhance wildlife habitat.

Stop in and grab some info or take the opportunity to get to know the District staff who can help you with your water quality issues!

Stearns County Fair
Sauk Centre
July 29-August 1

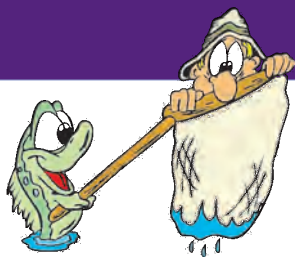
Todd County Fair
Long Prairie
July 29-August 1

Douglas County Fair
Alexandria
August 19-22

Pope County Fair
Glenwood
August 11-15

Meeker County Fair
Litchfield
August 5-8

~ Summer Recreation ~



Enjoy your lake and protect its water quality ... at the same time!

It's that time of year again...fishing, boating and sunsets on the shore. Everyone enjoys Minnesota's greatest resource in their own way and we can all do our part to ensure that our lakes and streams are protected for future years to come. Here is a list of tips from the UMN Extension Agency for some of the small things we can do to protect our vulnerable shorelines:

Docks, Decks and Accesses

1. If you install a dock, follow MN DNR guidelines as well as local shoreland ordinances for setback requirements.
2. Replace a straight path to the waterfront with an 'S' shape curved path to slow water runoff.
3. Use metal, recycled plastic, or naturally resistant wood (such as cedar, tamarack, or redwood) instead of chemically treated wood.
4. Construct the smallest possible dock to meet your needs. Allow free flow of water beneath it to prevent erosion and sedimentation along the shore.
5. Minimize the amount of ground surface covered with impervious decks and patios to minimize runoff and erosion.

Boating and Fishing

1. Never spill gas or oil in or near the water; always fuel the boat when it's on the trailer and away from the water.
2. Install fuel storage tanks as far away as possible from the waterfront.
3. Inspect boats and trailers and equipment for aquatic invasive species to avoid moving these unwanted "hitchhikers" from one body of water to another.
4. Properly store and dispose of all wastewater, both grey water from sinks and human waste.
5. Fish responsibly; bury fish guts and parts on land well away from water. It's illegal to deposit fish guts or parts into waters or on shores.
6. Do not disturb aquatic plant beds. When approaching shore travel at low speed and produce no wake so that you minimize wave erosion to the shoreline and prevent stirring up lake sediments.

Vehicles and ATVs

1. Stay on well-maintained trails.
2. Construct crossings over streams and wetlands according to regulations.
3. Use appropriate surfaced trails and roads during spring melt and after a major rain event, when the ground is very susceptible to rutting and erosion. Observe time periods designed to regulate off-road recreation during the muddy season.



Interested in Participating in an Event? Let us know!

If you are interested in participating in any of our SRWD sponsored events, fill out the application below and indicate which event you would like to attend. We will then send you out any additional registration needed. If you have any questions about our events, or suggestions for additional programs, give us a call at 320-352-2231 or check us out on the web at www.srwdmn.org.

Name(s): _____

Address _____ City, State, Zip Code _____

Please indicate which event you are interested in participating in:

- Volunteering for a Waterfest
- Rain Garden Workshop—Mainstreet Cafe
- Rain Garden Workshop—Sinclair Lewis Park
- Friends of the Sauk River—Canoe Event
- SRWD Summer Tour

Want to do something else? Let us know about any ideas you may have for workshops, demonstrations, or presentations.

Comments / Suggestions _____

I prefer to be contacted by :

- Phone Please List Phone # _____
- Email Please List E-mail address _____
- Mailing Address _____

Forms can be mailed to:

Sauk River Watershed District
 524 4th St South
 Sauk Centre MN 56378

