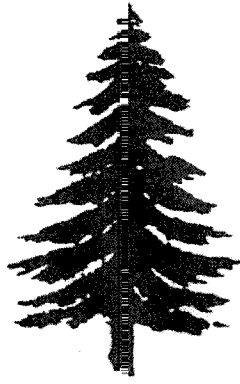


# NEWS



Land Services Department  
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## CROW WING COUNTY

BRAINERD, MINNESOTA 56401

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
December 19, 2011

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### MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS BOARD MEETS WITH DNR COMMISSIONER

Commissioners of the Mississippi Headwaters Board (MHB) met with DNR Commissioner Tom Landwehr and former state senator Bob Lessard in Walker on December 16, 2011.

Commissioner Landwehr expressed his support of the MHB and their initiatives to implement conservation practices on the Mississippi River. Commissioner Landwehr also supported local management of the Mississippi River at the county level and pledged to work with the legislature to properly fund the MHB.

Senator Lessard reviewed the history of the MHB and stressed its role is as important today as when it was created.

Formed in 1980 as an alternative to designation of the river into the National Wild and Scenic River System, the MHB works to protect and preserve the first 400 miles of the Mississippi River in Minnesota.

A joint powers board of Clearwater, Beltrami, Cass, Hubbard, Itasca, Aitkin, Crow Wing and Morrison Counties, the MHB is mandated by Minnesota Statutes 103F.361-377 to enhance and protect the natural, cultural, historic, scientific and recreational values of the headwaters region.

The MHB achieves its goal of river protection through cooperative land use planning in the eight counties, in conjunction with the Chippewa National Forest and the Leech Lake Indian Reservation.

The MHB recently received a \$100,000 grant from the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) Clean Water Fund titled "*Prioritizing Conservation Projects and Implementation in the 400 – mile Mississippi Headwaters*". This grant will gather all existing water quality data on the Mississippi River in the eight counties and use this information to identify potential conservation projects.

The MHB promotes water quality monitoring, education and stewardship activities for shoreland property owners, and embraces the efforts of local citizens, students and government groups who work together to protect the river in their community and preserve the splendor of this internationally known treasure. Paul Thiede, Chairman of the MHB, may be contacted at [paul.thiede@co.crow-wing.mn.us](mailto:paul.thiede@co.crow-wing.mn.us) or (218) 568-5774 with any questions.

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