

TIDINGS

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of the Mississippi Headwaters

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From the Director:

With the news of the September 11 tragedy, we are reminded of the need to “act locally and think globally”. Acting locally makes our nation strong and ensures the reliability of our resources. It appears from history that few civilizations survive

prosperity. I would like to think that the Americans could break that trend by rising to the occasion.

“Acting locally”, means getting the ‘best bang for the buck’. The cost of prevention is one-tenth the cost of fixing or remediating a natural resource. While practicing prevention of the ills that plague America, remember that our greatest natural resource is our people. People need clean air, clean water, fertile soil, and a complex food chain to thrive. Environmental resources that may be needed in crisis are preserved in each individual citizen’s action, whether it is preventing litter, saving water, or properly disposing of waste. Acting locally for environmental protection is a luxury of a first world country. The USA is the very first of the first world countries. People are at their best when they are well educated, conscientious and value human life. Therefore, let us agree with one another, make amends where needed, share with one another, as we are able, and celebrate our blessings.

“Thinking globally”: The USA is reaping the rewards of their worldwide partnerships in the field of environmental research and assistance. I confess to focusing most closely on our local needs and work in the past. I have been largely unaware of the global needs. Perhaps you have made the same mistake.

Americans are fortunate that many of our public institutions have been globally aware for a long time. It has helped build a network of worldwide friends on whom we now depend.

Please read the article in this newsletter that lists the huge strides EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) has been making on the “global” scene. I believe that these international efforts help solidify the partnerships the USA needs to be successful in countering the attacks on our most valuable resource, our people.

I am amazed at how many of the EPA projects have to do with contamination due to industrial waste disposal.

I am thankful that EPA was on top of the situation in America implementing Subtitle D landfill protection (with considerable opposition) before the USA had any more Superfund sites to clean up. We owe these people a debt of gratitude for building a positive American presence abroad and making us strong here at home.

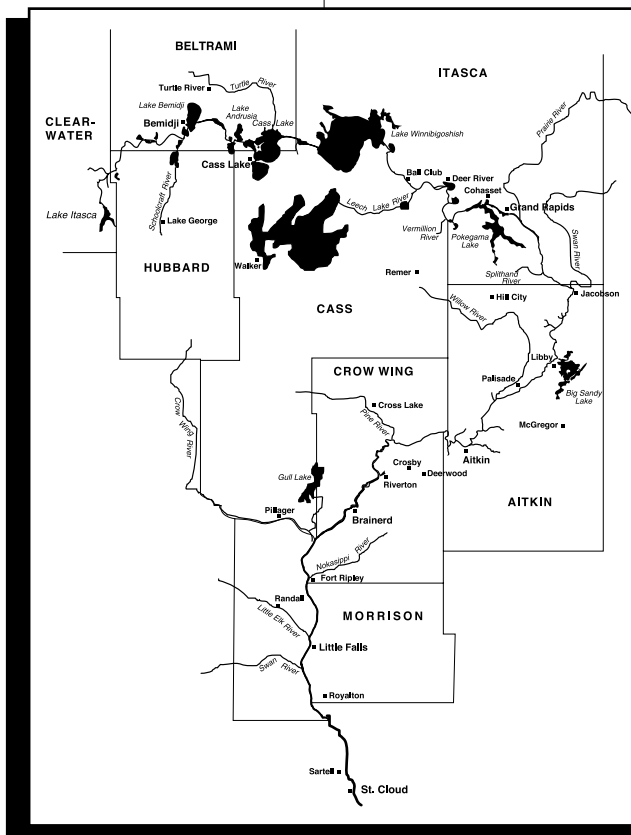
The next time you hear a negative remark about EPA, or our own Minnesota DNR (Department of Natural Resources), or PCA (Pollution Control Agency), please remember that: environmental health supports all economies, is easily destroyed, clean water is not plentiful in the world, and is easily destroyed. Let’s be supportive of people working for these agencies. Thank them for having the courage to take on unpopular, high-pressure jobs simply because they are committed to doing the right thing. They help make this country strong and great, a leader among nations. Other

countries grieve with us and stand by us, partly because of our technological aid to them.

Please ask yourself, what can I do to make America’s resources stronger? Thank you to all who give our country a strong future. I hope this means you!

In Public Service,

**Jane E. Van Hunnik, MS,
MHB Director**



EPA Leads Joint International Efforts in Soils Clean up

It is important for us as Americans to remember in this time of recession that the cost of clean up is at least ten times that of the cost of prevention. As patriots, let's use our resources, including our money, wisely. The following is a small part of what EPA has been doing to strengthen America abroad.

NATO's (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) 1985 pilot project identified and reviewed new technologies to be transferred to civilian and military sectors to address the treatment of contaminated land and groundwater. This included: the European Commission on waste and environmental programs; Common Forum on Contaminated Land in the European Union; NICOLE, the Network for Industrially Contaminated land in Europe; CARACAS, the Concerted Action on Risk Assessment in Contaminated Sites in the European Union; CLARINET (Contaminated Land Rehabilitation Network); Ad Hoc Group on Contaminated Land, European Environment Agency (topic for soil).

The USA is the lead along with Germany, Holland and 22 other countries. The European Union is conducting research, demonstrations and pilot projects on clean-up biological, physical-chemical, thermal, stabilization solidification technologies for the clean up of contaminated sites.

In Belgium on September 10-15, the USA was to present updates on: DNAPL (Dense Non-Aqueous Phase Liquids) technology demonstrations conducted at Cape Canaveral, Florida; Bioremediation of Pesticides demonstrations conducted in Tampa, Florida; and Surface enhanced Aquifer Remediation field tests conducted at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. The

USA was to present 4 pilot studies on Phyto (means plant)-remediation of petroleum in surface soils; Final Landfill Covers; Slurry Injection of Zero-Valent Iron into Chlorinated Solvents in groundwater plumes; and Chemical Oxidation techniques to reduce solvents in groundwater.

These reports are available on the Internet from EPA at www.clu-in.org/partner1.cfm and from NATO at www.nato.int/ccms, and from the National Service Center at 800-490-9198 or <http://www.epa.gov/ncephiom/>.

A meeting in Rome, Italy was scheduled to be held regarding the success of Steam Injection Used in Unsaturated Zone at a German Landfill. The design was completed in 1996. It encapsulated the contaminated area in sheet piles and construction was done of an asphalt cover to reduce leachate (landfill juice) to the atmosphere.

The Institute for International Cooperation in Environmental Research at Florida State University and the Institute for Ecology of Industrial Areas in Poland have collaborated on research for the phyto-remediation of lead from contaminated soil. This project also addressed cadmium and zinc contamination resulting from a nearby smelting operation.

International Efforts to Clean up the Great Lakes, the IJC (International Joint Commission) between the US and Canada facilitates management of persistent toxic substances in water, soil and sediments of the Great Lakes Basin.

Credit: EPA, "Tech Trends" September 2001 Issue No. 42, National Service for Environmental Publications, PO Box 42419, Cincinnati, OH 45242

MHB Welcomes the City of Brainerd as a Partner in Protecting the Mississippi River

The MHB certified the draft document governing annexed lands along the MHB Corridor on September 28, 2001. If approved by the City Council after the appropriate public hearings, the draft document will be the land use ordinance for those lands annexed to the City. The City first approached MHB with a request to change the statutory procedure in November of 2000 at the Crow Wing County Public hearing on the final MHB draft document.

In the interests of time, the City followed the existing procedure and agreed to an ordinance similar to that of the City of Little Falls. The City of Brainerd's Ordinance has two additional features, a 7% green space requirement and a 50-foot natural vegetative buffer with a strong recommendation for a footpath

along the water's edge. Some of the issues addressed were setbacks, lot size urban sprawl, City services, open space, quality of life, habitats, natural values, water quality education, ongoing partnership and density of housing.

MHB thanks the July 18, 2001 Visioning participants on Annexation that was sponsored by the Initiative Foundation of Little Falls. Specifically MHB thanks, Don Hickman, Karl Samp, Don Bargaen, Brainerd City Administrator Dan Vogt, City Councilman Gary R. Scheeler, Crow Wing Water Planner Bonnie Finnerty, Crow Wing County Zoning Director Dean Williams, Mississippi Headwaters Board Advisory Committee co-chair Daryl (Butch) Hartman and the MHB staff for their assistance in reaching an agreement.

MHB Welcomes New Commissioner

With the resignation of Commissioner Steve Booth, who served both Beltrami County and MHB with distinction, the County called a special election. MHB lost a valued and outstanding member of the Board.

The special election, held in July 2001, has brought a new member to the MHB. Commissioner Jack Frost has served as a supervisor on the Ten Lake Township Board of Supervisors. He, his wife Cherie and four children run a resort on beautiful Lake Andrusia, a Mississippi Headwaters Lake. Commissioner Frost brings a wealth of business experience and concern for the River and Mississippi Headwaters Lakes. Welcome aboard, Commissioner Frost.



Ireland Grieves for USA casualties

Semi-retired MHB Commissioner Bob Wilhelm, of Itasca County landed in Ireland on September 11, 2001. Unsure of 'when' or 'if' he and wife, Barbara would be able to return to the USA, the Wilhelm's were amazed that their host country declared a public day of mourning in sympathy to the people of the United States.

"Everything was shut down, you could hardly buy a cup of coffee", said Commissioner Wilhelm. "The Irish people would express their heartfelt sympathy to Americans on the street. They were just horrified at what had happened".

This is an example of one of the many stories heard across our nation where foreign countries expressed their grief on behalf of the American loss. It is comforting to know that other countries highly regard Americans.

Ever since World War II the USA has conscientiously stayed involved in world issues, realizing that our prior isolationism and ignorance of world events had contributed to the onset of war and loss of American lives. This has extended into environmental assistance, and technological aid to other countries. We may never know how many wars or environmental disasters Americans helped avoid by our international presence.

MHB Reaches Final Agreement on Comprehensive Land Use Plan

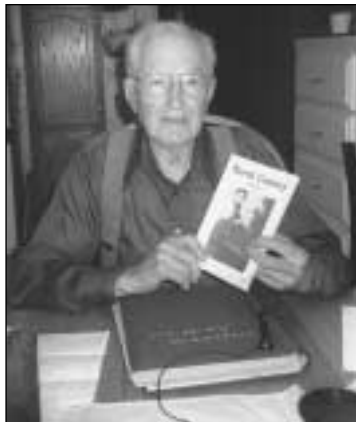
With the assistance of Executive Committees from Beltrami County and the MHB, draft language for Water Oriented Accessory Structures (WOAS) was redrafted and approved by both the Beltrami County Board of Commissioners and MHB as of September 28, 2001. This is almost a full year past the original scheduled date of completion. Commissioner Jack Frost of Beltrami County and Planning and Zoning Director Bill Patnaude, along with MHB Commissioners Swede Nelson of Hubbard County, Virgil Foster of Cass County, and the MHB Director met and rehashed the draft language after two rejections from Beltrami County.

Mississippi Headwaters Lakes bear more stringent requirements due to their proximity to the Mississippi River. Citizens of Beltrami County felt they bore an undue burden since most of the Headwaters lakes are located in their County. Both sides felt that the recent compromises on WOAS and revisions were better than the first two revisions. Congratulations to those who worked so very hard to make the revisions protective and considerate of the County's needs. (This is "acting locally"). Please contact MHB for a copy of the draft Plan or call it up on the website. Thank you.

Oral history: "Voices of the River Tributaries From the Past"

Chet Swanberg was interviewed by Terry Larson on August 12, 1999 for the Mississippi Headwaters Oral History Project. He has lived in the Grace Lake area and near the Mississippi River most of his life.

"I'm Chet Swanberg and the story was about in 1920 when I was nine years old and went on a fishing trip with Dad. We lived on a farm approximately twelve miles east of Bemidji on the Power Dam Road. My brother, Ray, was ten years old. We lived in Big Lake area. Dad had a wooden boat on Big Lake Bay on the west side of Big Lake. I watched my Dad putting potatoes and onions and a loaf of home-baked bread and butter, salt and pepper, and a kettle in his packsack. "That's it, I'm taking you and Ray fishing, so get ready." Ray and I got ready in a hurry, as we loved to go fishing with Dad. Had to walk a mile to the lake. Dad found the oars where he had hid them. Had to bail the rainwater out of the boat. Always had a tin can in the boat to bail out the water as the boat leaked. Most homemade wood boats had leaks in those days. We loaded the provisions and we were off on the fishing trip. Ray and I were really excited about going fishing with Dad. No outboard motors those days! Dad used a pair of oars. Dad used a fishing lure that was called a Spoon Hook. A treble hook with a spinner and feathers on it. Heavy green line was on the homemade reel with a handle that was stationary but the wheel would turn to let the line out. Dad made this thing. When a fish gets hooked, Dad would pull the line in by hand. He would row the boat with this heavy green line in his teeth. By the time we



crossed the bay, we would have enough fish for a shore lunch at about noon. We caught walleyes, northernns; we set up camp on the sandy beach of the island in Big Lake. Dad would build a fire, peel the potatoes, onions and clean the fish. Scoop some lake water in the kettle. No pollution those days! We also drank lake water when we got thirsty. Drank the lake water out of Dad's felt hat. I guess the sweat gave it a flavor. When water started boiling in the kettle, Dad would put in the potatoes seasoned with salt and butter. A few minutes later, a few minutes before the potatoes were done, he would put in the fish pieces and onions. It was sort of a fish soup.

This is what Dad called it. Ray and I decided to go wading in the lake, Dad didn't tell us about the drop-off. I waded out too far and stepped off the drop-off and went down over my head. That was when I learned to swim. Dog paddle! It sure gave me a scare! Dad had the fish soup all ready and had filled our bowls. Ray and I were really hungry. We had a couple of bowls of the soup with Mother's home baked bread and butter. The best soup I ever ate! On our way home Dad caught more fish to take home. Ray and I laid down in the bottom of the boat and fell asleep. I can still hear those oars squeaking in the oarlocks. Finally, arrived at the west shore of Big Lake Bay, Dad hid the oars; we tagged along with Dad with fish in his backpack and camping stuff and arrived home before dark. Mother always worried about us and waited for us. End of another good, exciting day with Dad. Goodnight, happy dreams, Chet Swanberg."

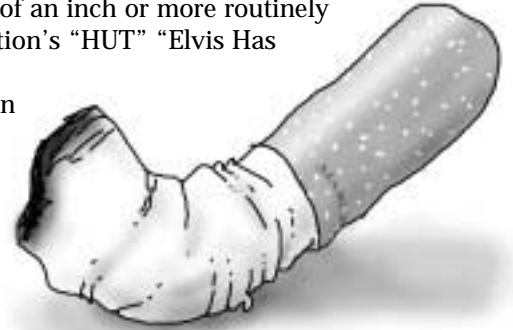


On Cultural values: Cleaning the Bathtub Ring

We have learned a great deal about the culture of past civilizations from the trash they left behind in the floors of caves, forts, and ancient cities. What cultural tales are we leaving for future archeologists to find about us? On the Canoe Club's Annual River clean up of trash at Pike Island where the Minnesota River joins the Mississippi at Fort Snelling, apparently the "best" trash harvest is found. On the Mississippi side summer rains of an inch or more routinely leave a "bathtub ring" of cigarette butts on the shoreline (Minnesota Canoe Association's "HUT" "Elvis Has Left the River" Carbronne, October, 2001).

Park Manager Mark Cleveland indicates that cigarette butts are apparently thrown out on the roads, streets and gutters, where they accumulate in gutters and storm sewers that lead to the Mississippi River. Each rain also brings cans, plastic bottles and loads of old shoes! No one seems to know where the shoes come from.

It is interesting to note that those who litter are most likely to smoke Marlboros, eat Doritos chips, and drink Mountain Dew or Miller Genuine Draft. What message does this send to future generations about our culture and the way we live?



Will our Drinking Water be Safe?

EPA Administrator Christie Whitman has announced the establishment of a water protection task force that will be charged with providing immediate guidance improving security to drinking water systems. The taskforce will revise a 1998 infrastructure plan while continuing to implement existing strategy. Potential gaps in protection and emergency preparedness will be identified.

Consultation with utility industries, states, and tribes will help determine additional steps to increase our nation's drinking water supplies. For additional information contact "Environmental Protection E-news at mhauser@stevenspublishing.com.

ROSSMAN WATER BOOKS ON-LINE:

People interested in weather and water levels in the Mississippi Headwaters region now have a source for information.

The new website is open to public use at www.minn-north.org

UP-COMING EVENTS:

November 15	MHB Meeting, 9:00 a.m., Courthouse, Walker	December 3	LCMR Steering Committee meeting in Walker
November 16	REMAP Meeting at Chippewa National Forest Headquarters, Cass Lake	December 4	RDN Meeting in St. Cloud
November 19	ACOE presentation in St. Paul	December 5	MDOH Wells and Borings Meeting in St Paul.
November 22 - 23	Thanksgiving Holiday	December 21	MHB Meeting, 9:00 a.m., Courthouse, Walker
November 26	ACOE ROPE Study Meetings, Pike Bay Township Hall, Cass Lake	January 18, 2002	MHB /MHAC Joint Meeting and Orientation
November 27	ACOE ROPE Study Meetings at Cross Lake Dam	April 3, 2002	River Watch Youth Congress at Deep Portage

The Mississippi Headwaters Board (MHB) is a joint powers board of Clearwater, Hubbard, Beltrami, Cass, Itasca, Aitkin, Crow Wing and Morrison counties, organized in 1980 to protect and preserve the natural, cultural, historical, scientific and recreational values of the Mississippi's first 400 miles. The Board protects the river by regulating land use on its shorelands; by monitoring water quality and taking actions to protect the health of the river, and by educating the river's users and neighbors on how to balance human uses with the river's ecology.