

RCRCA News

Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Control Area

Spring Outreach Summary

The 2008 educational season was underway by the end of April as Shawn and Doug judged oral presentations at the Region V Envirothon. The top three teams from our region went on to the state-level envirothon. The top team from our region finished 12th out of 31 teams at the state competition.

The first two weeks in May were very busy as Shawn set up the stream table for the Lyon County and Yellow Medicine County Conservation Days. Presentations to almost 600 students and staff over 4 days were well received. The best compliment was at the end of one of the Lyon Co. Conservation Days when one group of students were making their way back to their school, came by as Shawn was taking down our stream table. They were talking amongst themselves and were overheard saying "The stream table was the coolest station we went to!"

Jim and Doug assisted Redwood County with their Electronics Recycling Day on May 29th. Over 400 people came and were able to recycle their electronic waste for low or no cost. This program is a great help to keeping dangerous metals and chemicals out of our environment by recycling these wastes rather than them ending up in the landfill, a ditch or worse yet, in our rivers.

Early June was spent preparing for the RCRCA annual canoe trips. The canoe trips expanded again and now encompass four trips down the rivers in four days! Originally, there were two public trips, one down each river. A local school inquired about a separate trip with an educational stop along the way to learn more about RCRCA and the environment. That led to having three trips a year for the last three years. This year another school and a local 4-H chapter wanted to participate with a similar format (educational stop). Thanks to great weather and glowing word of mouth reports we brought over 130 people down the Cottonwood and Redwood Rivers in 2008. We had many experienced, and a few first-timers, on the public trips, but most of the 50+ students and chaperones on the educational trips were in a canoe for the first time in their lives.

The annual golf outing in September has been suspended until further notice. We are down to just two full-time staff members, which makes a large event like this very challenging to put on. We also felt as though we weren't reaching many new people with this. We were getting about a 70% return rate for players, this means we were only getting 10-12 new people out per year.

RCRCA Engineering Technician Available to Assist You!

William Moldestad, Engineering Technician for the Cottonwood & Redwood River watersheds is available to assist local landowners, NRCS staff, and SWCD staff. Our technician has sign-off authority for BMP designs, so we have the ability to help with surveying, design, and construction of conservation practices. If you need help and have a waiting list, contact RCRCA at 507-637-2142, ext 4 for assistance.

August 2008

RCRCA News



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Web Site updates!



If you have any ideas about what you'd like to see on the web site, call 507-637-2142, Ext. 4. Suggestions can also be e-mailed to: shawn.wohnoutka@mn.nacdnet.net

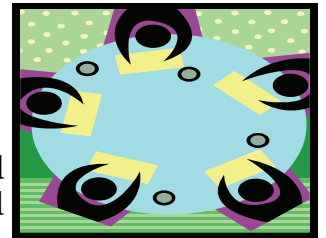
Remember, you can also view the current *RCRCA News* on the web at: www.rcrca.com and click on "Latest Newsletter" under Events/Activities:

RCRCA Board Minutes

The RCRCA Board of Directors held their monthly meeting on **Monday July 21, 2008** at the Redwood County Courthouse.

The following is the unofficial version of the minutes:

- Board reviewed, corrected (item 9; 650 yards³ to 650,000 yards³ and item 10; meeting date changed from May 28 to June 25) & approved minutes from June Board of Directors and Executive Board Meetings.
- Board reviewed January to July income & expense reports.
- Board reviewed and approved July payments.
- Board approved a CWP-319 contract for \$7,500 in the Redwood Watershed.
- Board approved a CWP-319 contract for ATI's in the Cottonwood Watershed for \$450.
- Board reviewed & approved combining the GIS/Outreach position with the Watershed Technician position. Job will be posted internally for 5 days with a start date of September 1. Other issues associated with this consolidation were tabled until the August meeting.
- Goodrich updated the board on progress on conversion from the federal computer system to a partnership system with the Redwood SWCD.
- Board reviewed and approved a rejection letter to L.W. Matteson, Inc. stating the bid submitted had been rejected due to insufficient dollars from the General Bonding award with the State of Minnesota. Informed L.W. Matteson, Inc. that RCRCA anticipates rebidding this job in the future when additional funds were secured. Jim Doering (City of Redwood Falls Project Coordinator) informed board that the City of Redwood Falls is interested in partnering with RCRCA in moving this project forward. Board choose to retain Houston Engineering for this project by reducing the Phase III budget.
- Goodrich updated board about the fourth Fecal TMDL Technical Committee meeting held June 25th. Meeting was not as productive as previous meetings as attendance was down significantly and some participants continued to protest established rules and protocols beyond the control of the TMDL authors. RCRCA looks to move on and hold a public open house on the TMDL sometime in August.
- Goodrich and Doering informed the Board about the success of the annual canoe trips. They felt there was more interest this year than in years past. There were over 130 participants in this years canoe trips. The trips with local summer/alternative schools and 4-H clubs were considered good outreach activities for the watersheds.
- Nelson and Schueller updated board on other agency meetings.
- Goodrich informed board about the IRS mileage rate increase to 58.5 cents per mile as of July 1, 2008.



Welcome the new director & RCRCA Board Member Spotlights

RCRCA has a new Executive Director

I would like to introduce the new executive director, Douglas Goodrich. He should already be familiar to everyone associated with RCRCA as he was the watershed technician for the last four and a half years. Doug is looking forward to the new challenges that come with this promotion and learning some new skills. He is extremely intelligent, observant and blessed with a farmer's work ethic. I've known Doug for almost 10 years and I can say I have no doubts about his ability to lead this organization. The board must have felt the same to select him from the pool of candidates for this position. Congratulations Doug!

- Shawn Wohnoutka, RCRCA, GIS/Outreach Technician

Spotlight on Clark Lingbeek

Clark Lingbeek is a SWCD supervisor for Cottonwood County. Clark serves the townships of Midway, Mountain Lake, Selma and the city of Mountain Lake. He has served as a SWCD supervisor for twelve years and has represented the Cottonwood County SWCD on the RCRCA Board. Clark became a SWCD supervisor because of his interest in conservation and promoting programs that benefit both producers and the environment. Clark is currently single and has no children. He is a very active entrepreneur, in addition to farming, he owns and operates the Jack Slade Steakhouse and Phat Pheasant Pub in Windom. He lives on a farm outside of Comfrey. Clark is the Chairman of the RCRCA Board of Directors.

Spotlight on Norm Holmen

Norm serves on the RCRCA Board of Directors as a representative from Cottonwood County. He is one of the 5 elected County Commissioners for Cottonwood County and represents the people of Amboy, Carson, Dale, Delton, Germantown, Lakeside, Mountain Lake and Selma townships. Norm has served as County Commissioner for five years. He enjoys the challenge of working on issues or problems to come up with a workable solution, and wants to continue to see Cottonwood County provide professional and efficient services to it's residents.

Norm lives and farms south of Comfrey, is a certified Minnesota Assessor and drives bus part-time. He enjoys camping, water sports, singing and volleyball in his spare time. Norm and his wife, Corrine, have four children, Bethany, Abigail, Jordan and Brennan. Norm is the Vice-Chairman of the RCRCA Board of Directors.



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We're on the web!
www.rcrca.com

According to the US EPA, roughly 65% of the US population receives their drinking water from surface sources. (In Minnesota that number is about 25%)



Recycled paper

Anything else you're interested in is not going to happen if you can't breathe the air and drink the water. Don't sit this one out. Do something. You are by accident of fate, alive at an absolutely critical moment in the history of our planet.
 ~ **Carl Sagan**

August 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 2008

18th RCRCA Board Meeting 7:30 pm

September 2008

1st Labor Day
 8th Vikings season opener at Green Bay
 15th RCRCA Board Meeting 7:30 pm
 23rd Environmental Fair - Slayton
 24th Environmental Fair - Slayton

RCRCA Executive Board of Directors

Clark Lingbeek, Chairman
 Norman Holmen, Vice Chairman
 Tom Daub, Secretary
 John Schueller, Treasurer
 Glen Sorensen, Public Relations & Information
 Phil Nelson, Member at Large

RCRCA Full Board of Directors

County Commissioners

Dennis Potter, Brown Co.
 Norman Holmen, Cottonwood Co.
 James Johansen, Lincoln Co.
 Phil Nelson, Lyon Co.
 Kevin Vickerman, Murray Co.
 Luke Johnson, Pipestone Co.
 John Schueller, Redwood Co.
 Jane Remiger, Yellow Medicine Co.

SWCD Board Members

Jack Vogel, Brown
 Clark Lingbeek, Cottonwood
 Glen Sorensen, Lincoln
 Mark Muelebroeck, Lyon
 Paul Posthuma, Murray
 LeRoy Stensgaard, Pipestone
 Tom Daub, Redwood
 Burton Kuehn, Yellow Medicine

RCRCA Staff

Kari Clouse, Office Specialist
 Douglas A. Goodrich, Executive Director
 William Moldestad, Engineering Technician
 Shawn Wahnoutka, GIS/Outreach Technician