

# RCRCA News

Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Control Area

## “WORKING AT A WATERSHED LEVEL” CONFERENCE

Staff members of RCRCA attended a three day watershed conference in St. Cloud, MN on September 12 & 13. Roseanne Kaseforth, Watershed Educator and Stephanie McLain, Watershed Technician attended the training program for state, federal, local and non-governmental agency personnel.

“Working At A Watershed Level” was designed for those newly assigned to watershed teams, watershed managers and members of citizen groups interested in a cooperative approach to watershed

issues.

Sessions included topics on water chemistry; how land use affects what lives in and near a stream; natural and human disturbances affecting streams; working with stakeholders; and the planning and management of watersheds. Break-out sessions were also held for management, technical and educational personnel.



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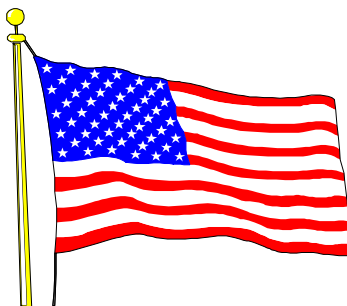


## GOD BLESS AMERICA!

Words cannot express our horror and shock regarding the events of the September 11th in New York City, Washington DC and Pennsylvania. We at RCRCA mourn with the rest of the nation for the victims of the terrorist attacks on the United States, and our thoughts and prayers are with their families and the courageous police officers, fire fighters and other rescue workers who have worked to save others.

We join with other American by proudly flying our nation's flag not only to mourn the lives of those who have died in the tragedy, but also to remind us all that we will remain united and strong behind our country and the principles it represents.

These tragic events will live with us forever. In this moment of shock, we will stand together. This tragedy has brought us together as Americans. And together, we will remain strong.



### Inside this issue:

<i>Job Announcement</i>	2
<i>Board of Director's Minutes</i>	2
<i>Septic System Loan</i>	2
<i>Governor's CREP Tour</i>	3
<i>Cost Share Available</i>	3
<i>Calendar</i>	4

# JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

## Water Quality Technician

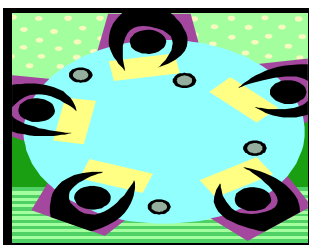
Immediate, full-time opening for experienced person to work with an innovative watershed organization. Responsible for securing citizen participation in river protection programs and implementing outreach activities of established watershed plans. Require extensive contact with general public and agency personnel. Require skills in public speaking, water quality monitoring, data analysis/interpretation, and use of electronic data management



systems (MS Excel, MS Access, MS Works, MS Word), and knowledge/experience with GIS application. Must be familiar with state/federal programs affecting water quality, be highly motivated, and demonstrate an ability to communicate technical material to the general public. Four year degree or equivalent job experience necessary. Starting salary is from \$25,022 to \$26,811, based on qualifications and experience. Submit cover letter and resume to RCRCA, 1241 East Bridge Street, Redwood Falls, MN 56283 or fax to 507-637-2134 by September 28, 2001.

# RCRCA BOARD MINUTES

The RCRCA Board of Directors held their monthly meeting on Monday, September 17th at the Redwood County Courthouse.



The following is the unofficial version of the minutes:

- Job announcement for Watershed Technician for the Cottonwood Watershed has been advertised. Closing date is Sept. 28th.
- Funds given to RCRCA from a fine assessed by MPCA are being utilized in the Cottonwood Watershed for a floodwater retention dam located in Lake Marshall Township. Area II will be engineering the project.
- A re-application for a grant for the upper Redwood River Watershed is being done. Loan dollars had been received for the Upper Redwood River watershed and now the grant dollars will be sought again.

- The \$20,000 in "Redwood Special BMP 319 Funds" has been utilized by five (5) contracts for water/sediment control basins, stream bank/shoreline protection and a pond.
- Board reviewed the September 6th CREP tour, which included Governor Ventura and the MN River Basin Joint Powers Board meeting, held September 17th. The MN River Basin will be advertising for an Executive Director to replace Steve Hanson.
- Doering explained the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) planning process that will need to be done on the Redwood and Cottonwood Rivers.
- The RCRCA Board of Directors reviewed the MN River Special Project cost share for the Redwood and Cottonwood Watersheds.
- The next Board meeting will be October 15, 2001 at the Redwood County Courthouse at 7:30 pm.

## SEPTIC LOAN PROGRAM

The following are the Cottonwood River Restoration Project septic system loan program dollars by county.

Brown, Cottonwood, Redwood and Murray Counties have all been authorized to begin spending their allotted monies. As of September 18th, the following counties have loaned out the following: Brown—all is spent; Cottonwood—\$40,368; Murray—\$15,950 and Redwood—\$23,301.

County	Percent in Watershed	Dollar Appropriations for First Three Years
Brown	21%	\$ 77,700
Cottonwood	19%	70,300
Lyon	17%	62,900
Murray	8%	29,600
Redwood	35%	129,500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$370,000</b>

# GOVERNOR'S CREP TOUR

(Editor's Note: The following was written by Stephanie McLain, Watershed Technician.)

Thursday, September 6<sup>th</sup> was a significant day in the way of highlighting conservation. That was the day Governor Ventura toured 4 CREP easement sites in the Minnesota River Basin. I along with RCRCA Board Chairman, Clark Lingbeek, were representatives for RCRCA. The tour started in Granite Falls with three charter busses full of people, about fifty cars and the Governor's own private bus. It was amazing to see such a line up of vehicles; police officers were at almost every corner to stop traffic.

The first 3 sites we visited were located in Renville County and the final site was in Redwood County. The sites were varied and gave you an idea of the different ways cropland is eligible for CREP. The first site overlooked Hawk Creek; native grasses were planted as a buffer next to the steep banks. Site 2 buffered an existing wetland and placed a buffer along the river. The last 2 sites were low floodplain areas on the Minnesota River.

Although we only looked at 4 sites that day, this tour highlighted much more than these places. CREP was in the public eye for a whole day. Newspapers, radio and television news shows informed the general public as to Governor Ventura's reasons for visiting. This tour provided Governor Ventura the opportunity to see CREP up close and personal. The Governor talked abundantly about wildlife habitat, pheasant and deer hunting, water quality, and conservation. This tour also gave all of us working on CREP the chance to get together, see our work on the ground, and just feel good about the work we've done. I know for myself, that after sending out proposals, doing follow-up calls and site checks, assisting with surveys and applications, it was a great feeling to be out at these sites.

It was amazing to see so many people on this tour. I know for a fact, that most of the people on this tour in some way, work with CREP. This tour was a great

highlight our teamwork. There were people from multiple agencies: BWSR, SWCD, NRCS, FSA, DNR, RCRCA and other organizations such as Pheasants Forever, county commissioners and board members. Most importantly, there were landowners there, and this program would not function without them!

The member counties of RCRCA have been quite successful with CREP. According to the BWSR website, these 8 counties alone are responsible for over 14,300 acres in CREP. Brown County has enrolled 2,069.7 acres; Cottonwood County 1,667.7 acres; Lincoln County 2,210.9 acres; Lyon County 2,285.5 acres; Murray County 1,189.9 acres; Pipestone County 217.3 acres; Redwood County 4,756.8 acres; and Yellow Medicine County 3,476.5 acres.

There were smiles and good cheer all around. That September day was a wonderful day to be outside riding on a hayrack, viewing conservation at its finest.

## COST SHARE AVAILABLE



As of September 1, 2001  
the approximate cost share dollars available for  
the MN Special Project Funds are:

Cottonwood River Watershed: \$56,950  
Redwood River Watershed: \$28,240

As of September 1, 2001  
cost share for the  
Cottonwood 319 Grant is:  
\$65,168.75



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 web!  
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# CALENDAR 2001

## October

- 9 Wildlife Habitat Development Conference, 8:30-3 pm, Jackpot Junction, sponsored by SWMACDE
- 15 RCRCA Board of Directors Meeting, 7:30 pm, Redwood Co. Courthouse

## November

- 6 Election Day
- 12 Veteran's Day—RCRCA Office Closed
- 19 RCRCA Board of Directors Meeting, 1:30 pm, Redwood Co. Courthouse (tentative)
- 22 & 23 Thanksgiving Holiday—RCRCA Office Closed

## December

- 11 RCRCA Board of Directors Meeting, 1:30 pm, Redwood Co. Courthouse (tentative)
- 24 Christmas Eve—RCRCA Office Closes at 12 pm
- 25 Christmas Day—RCRCA Office Closed

