

2008 LCCMR Site Visits: Southeast Minnesota
Times subject to change
Tuesday, September 16 – Wednesday, September 17, 2008

Site Visit Overview:

On the LCCMR Site Visit to Southeast Minnesota we will have the opportunity to discuss multiple, interrelated natural resource and environmental issues.

On Day One we will focus on

- Mississippi River management issues, including habitat restoration
- Forestry issues in SE Minnesota, including Forest Legacy Conservation Easements
- Bluff prairie protection and management
- Development issues, including the Lake Pepin TMDL and bluff development activities and ordinances
- SE Minnesota flood impacts and recovery

On Day Two we will focus on ground water

- Karst geology in SE Minnesota
- Movement of water through the karst region
- Groundwater use and allocation
- Groundwater contamination
- Trout stream management

LCCMR- and LCCMR-funded projects in site visit area include:

- Forest Legacy Forest Conservation Easements, including Habitat Conservation Partnership
- Trout Stream Restoration
- Trout Stream Springshed Mapping
- Bluff Prairie Restoration
- Land Acquisitions (fee title and easements) – SNAs, State Parks, WMAs, APAs, Habitat Conservation Partnership
- Community Assistance Grants
- Local Initiative Grants – Regional Parks and Natural Areas
- MN Geologic Atlas – Olmsted County
- Soil Survey
- Assessment of Riparian Buffers in Whitewater River Watershed
- Invasive Species Control – Purple Loosestrife and Spotted Knapweed
- Lanesboro Fish Hatchery Renovation

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16		
8:00 AM	LV	Depart State Office Building by bus for Hok-Si-La City Park, Lake City, MN <i>DIRECTIONS: From St. Paul, south on US-52 S (25.2 miles). Take MN-56/MN-50 exit toward Kenyon/Farmington (02. mile). Left on 240th St. E/MN-50 (10.9 miles) – becomes US-61. Continue on US-61 S (27.9 miles). Left at park entrance.</i>
9:45 AM	AR	Arrive at Lake City, MN Lake Pepin TMDL discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Norm Senjum, MPCA • Tim Schagenhaft, DNR
10:15 AM	LV	Depart for Halfmoon Lake Landing near West Newton, MN En route: Discussion of Bluff development issue with DNR staff (Beth Knudsen) <i>DIRECTIONS: From Hok-Si-La City Park, left onto US-61/US-63 (22 miles). Left on CR-18 (0.3 mile). Right on CR-18/S. Dodge St. and then immediate left onto Hayes St. (0.1). Left on CR-84 (3.9 miles). Left on W. Newton Rd. (2.5 miles).</i>

11:10 AM	AR	<p>Arrive at Halfmoon Lake Landing near West Newton, MN Backwater river observation of Weaver Bottoms area, river draw down, restoration, mouth of Whitewater River (new channel due to flooding)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mike Davis, DNR • Tim Schlagenhaft, Mississippi River Planner, DNR • Randy Binder, Fisheries, DNR • Megan Moore, Ecological Services, DNR • Scot Johnson, Hydrologist, DNR <p>Lunch on the river</p>
1:45 PM	LV	<p>Depart for Forest Conservation Easement site near Weaver, MN <i>DIRECTIONS: From Halfmoon Lake Landing, west on W. Newton Road (2.5 miles). Left on CR-84 (4.3 miles). Right on US-61 (0.3 miles). Left on CR-14 (1.5 miles).</i></p>
2:05 PM	AR	<p>Arrive at Forest Conservation Easement site near Weaver, MN Wabasha Blufflands Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dick Peterson, Forest Legacy Program Coordinator, DNR • Larry Gates, Property Owner
3:15 PM	LV	<p>Depart for Whitewater WMA (near Beaver, MN) <i>DIRECTIONS: From Forest Conservation Easement site, northeast on CR-14 (1.5 miles). Right on US-61 S (1.5 miles to Weaver, MN). Right on MN 74. Continue south on MN 74 to Winona County 30 (7 miles - old townsite of Beaver, MN). Left to obscure parking lot drive (.5 miles).</i></p>
3:50 PM	AR	<p>Arrive at Whitewater WMA Bluff prairie protection and management issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jon Cole, Whitewater WMA Manager, DNR
4:50 PM	LV	<p>Depart for Whitewater State Park <i>DIRECTIONS: From Whitewater WMA, south on MN-74 (5 miles).</i></p>
5:00 PM	AR	<p>Arrive at Whitewater State Park Flooding Issues, stream restoration, Trout Unlimited/DNR project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garry Barvels, Whitewater State Park Manager, DNR • Dave Palmquist, Park Naturalist, DNR • Steve Klotz, Lanesboro Area Fisheries Supervisor, DNR • Tom Dornach, Trout Unlimited
6:15 PM	LV	<p>Depart for Lanesboro <i>DIRECTIONS: From Whitewater State Park, south on MN-74 (6.4 miles). Left on W. 6th St./US-14 (5.8 miles). Right on N. Center St./CR-33 (11 miles), which becomes MN-250 (9 miles).</i></p>
7:15 PM	AR	<p>Arrive in Lanesboro</p>
		<p>Dinner – Arrangements TBD</p>
<p>WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17</p>		
7:00 AM		<p>Breakfast – on own at hotel</p>
8:00 AM	LV	<p>Depart Lanesboro hotels for Lanesboro State Fish Hatchery 23785 Grosbeak Road, Lanesboro En route - (view from bus) – groundwater remediation due to petroleum and ethanol spills (Calvin Alexander) <i>DIRECTIONS: From Lanesboro, south on MN-16. Proceed (less than 1 mile) to sign for “Department of Natural Resources – Fish Hatchery” and turn left. Follow to Laneboro State Fish Hatchery.</i></p>

8:15 AM	AR	<p>Arrive at Lanesboro State Fish Hatchery</p> <p>Introduction to groundwater basics (hydrologic cycle, groundwater flow, karst geology); groundwater/trout stream relationship, groundwater research efforts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chuck Kernler, Assistant Hatchery Supervisor, DNR • Stu Grubb, President, MN Groundwater Association (MGWA) • Scott Alexander, President-elect, MGWA • Calvin Alexander, University of MN • Jeff Green, Regional Groundwater Specialist, DNR
9:15 AM	LV	<p>Depart for Fountain, MN</p> <p><i>DIRECTIONS: From Lanesboro State Fish Hatchery, go back to MN-16 and turn right to go north on MN-16 back through Lanesboro (less than 1 mile). Left on MN-250/Parkway Ave. S. Proceed 0.5 mile, then left on CR-8/Elmwood St. W. Proceed approx. 9 miles, then right on US-52. Proceed 0.3 mile, then left on W CR-8. Proceed 0.3 mile, then right on Township Rd 274 to Fountain Big Spring.</i></p>
9:30 AM	AR	<p>Arrive in Fountain, MN</p> <p>Issues with sewage treatment facility threatening municipal water supply due to karst geology and sink holes; springshed mapping and dye tracing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scott Alexander, MGWA • Calvin Alexander, U of MN • Jeff Green, DNR
10:30 AM	LV	<p>Depart for Spring Valley Caverns, near Spring Valley, MN via Wykoff</p> <p><i>DIRECTIONS: From Fountain Big Spring, south on Township Rd. 274 back to W. CR-8. Left on CR-8 (0.3 mile). Right on US-52 (0.4 mile). Slight right on MN-80. South on US 52 to MN 80. Right on MN 80 (7.1 miles) through Wykoff. Right on MN 16 (6.3 miles) to Spring Valley. Right (north) on County Road 1 and proceed approx. 4 miles. Left (west) on Quilt Road (gravel road at the top of a hill). Go about 1.5 miles to where the road takes a sharp turn to the left.</i></p>
11:00 AM	AR	<p>Arrive at Spring Valley Caverns, near Spring Valley, MN</p> <p>Observe underground river, continue exploration of karst geology, research on evidence of long-term climate change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Ackerman, Property Owner • Scott Alexander, MGWA • Calvin Alexander U of MN • Jeff Green, DNR <p>Lunch outside caverns provided by Southeast Minnesota Food Network</p>
1:30 PM	LV	<p>Depart for Stonehedge Fen, Rochester, MN</p> <p><i>DIRECTIONS: From Spring Valley Caverns, north on CR-1/CR-4 (8 miles). Right on MN-30 (3.1 miles). Left on CR-19 (5.5 miles). Take CR-111/CR-36 exit toward Marion Rd (0.3 mile). Right on 50th Ave SE/CR-36 (0.4 mile). Left on Marion Rd. SE (4.4 miles). Right on US-14 E (1.1 miles). Left on 30th Ave. SE (0.7 mile) until it becomes E Circle Dr. NE (2.4 miles). Right on Stonehedge Dr. NE (0.25 mile). Left on Jade Place NE (0.1 mile). Right on Stone Point Dr. E (0.1 mile). Right on Jasper Place NE (0.1mile). Park in front of playground/park on left.</i></p>
2:00 PM	AR	<p>Arrive at Stonehedge Fen, Rochester, MN</p> <p>Groundwater use and allocation; protecting springs and fens from development; aquifer recharge; nitrate contamination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jeanette Leete, Hydrogeology and Ground Water Unit Supervisor , DNR • Laurel Reeves, Hydrologist, DNR • Barb Huberty, Regulatory and Environmental Affairs Coordinator, City of Rochester • Perry Jones, Hydrologist, US Geological Survey

3:15 PM	LV	Depart for State Office Building <i>DIRECTIONS: From Stonehedge Fen, left on Stone Point Drive NE (0.1 mile). Left on Jade Place NE (0.1 mile). Right on Stonehedge Dr. NE (0.25 mile). Right on E. Circle Dr. NE/CR-22 W (3.3 miles). Right merge onto US-52 N (73 miles) to Twin Cities.</i>
5:00 PM	AR	Arrive at State Office Building