

Southwest Minnesota LCCMR Site Visits

Tuesday, June 18, 2013 – Wednesday, June 19, 2013

Times are Approximate - Agenda subject to change

Day 1 Focus areas: Water quality, water supply, county parks, dams and hydropower, fisheries, water recreation, petroglyphs, geology, wildlife management areas, prairies, state parks

Day 2 Focus areas: Pipestone Monument and the importance to native Americans, wind energy, state parks, geology, archeology, state parks

Link to full agenda with directions:

http://www.lccmr.leg.mn/calendar/2013/2013-06-18-20-site_visit/agenda_with_directions.pdf

Day 1 - Tuesday, June 18, 2013

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8:00 a.m.	State Office Building - bus leave from the front of building
10:30 a.m.	Blue Earth County Rapidan Dam Park - Topics: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Water issues, Rapidan Dam and hydropower, high and low flows, sediment in the reservoir, water quality, drinking water, water supply, Jordan sandstone 2. Water recreation, DNR water trail designation, increased kayak use 3. County park, previous ENRTF funding through Natural and Scenic Areas grant
12:30 a.m. <i>Lunch at site</i>	Jeffers Petroglyphs, Minnesota Historical Society - Topics: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jeffers Petroglyphs –world renowned American Indian carvings in a native prairie setting; over 2,000 sacred carvings up to 7,000 years old; tall grass prairie including over 200 species of wildflowers; geology and groundwater 2. Rock Ridge Scientific and Natural Area (SNA), 200 acres adjacent to the historical site. One of the first private property prairie bank easements that were eventually purchased by the state to become a SNA
2:30 p.m.	Heron Lake Wildlife Management Area (WMA) - Topics: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Heron Lake area historically had large waterfowl populations but today they are much lower. Efforts to improve water quality and increase waterfowl and other wildlife (Watershed districts, DNR, North Heron Lake Game Producers) 2. DNR WMA/AMA programs 3. Agricultural best management practices (BMPs) for water quality including conservation drainage 4. Fisheries and aquatic invasive species (AIS)
4:30 p.m.	Touch the Sky Prairie National Wildlife Refuge (United States Fish and Wildlife Service and Brandenburg Foundation) – Topics: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Brandenburg Foundation efforts to create and protect the site. (Currently covers nearly 800 acres of federally-owned land - an additional 54 acres permanent protection USFWS grassland easement) 2. Prairie management and other ecological features
6:30 p.m. <i>Dinner at the park</i>	Blue Mounds State Park – Topics: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Blue Mounds State Park attractions and management efforts 2. Geology - Sioux Quartzite and Morton Gneiss 3. Hydrogeology – water quality and water supply
8:45 p.m.	GrandStay Hotel, Luverne, MN – Overnight

Day 2 - Wednesday, June 19, 2013

8:15 a.m.	GrandStay Hotel – Luverne, MN – bus departs for Pipestone National Monument
9:00 a.m.	Pipestone National Monument, National Park Service – Topics: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pipestone quarry used historically by Native American community 2. Prairie and other ecological features
10:15 a.m.	Prairie Coteau SNA – Topics: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prairie Coteau - one of the largest prairies remnants in southwestern Minnesota - 329 acres 2. DNR Scientific and Natural Areas (SNA) program 3. Minnesota Biological Survey (MBS) 4. Prairie plan
11:30 a.m. <i>Lunch at park</i>	Camden State Park – Topics: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. State Parks overview 2. Renewable energy demonstration in state parks, energy efficiency, solar, wind, geothermal
1:30 p.m.	Morton Outcrops SNA – Topics: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Geology: 3.3 billion years old rock exposed at the surface 2. ENRTF funded granite outcrops easements - SWCD 3. America Great Outdoors Blueway designation – other Minnesota River planning efforts
2:45 p.m.	Fort Ridgely State Park (Historic Fort Ridgely) – Topics: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. State Park overview 2. Historic Fort Ridgely - Historical aspects of the park 3. Recent additional archeological discoveries in the park 4. Recent ENRTF funded land acquisition within the park
3:30 p.m.	Bus departs Fort Ridgely for State Office Building, St. Paul, MN
5:30 p.m. (Estimated return time)	State Office Building, St. Paul, MN