LCCMR Southwest Minnesota Site visits

	June 18 and 19, 2013			
Tuesday, June 18 Site	Topico	Drocontoro		
	Topics Blue Earth River	Presenters		
1- Rapidan Dam (Southwest of Mankato)1 hour	 Bue Earth River Water quality, water quality monitoring, impoundment, sedimentation, high/low flows, Greater Blue Earth Watershed Drinking water – Mankato water supply Hydropower energy generation/dam maintenance 	Todd Kolander and Leo Getsfried – DNR Eco Waters, New Ulm		
Pie and coffee from Dam Store	 Blue Earth River State Water Trail - kayaking, potential expansion of water access to accommodate increasing outfitter use. Rapidan Dam County Park LCCMR funding -1975 \$6,000 – develop playground, picnic area, canoe portage (Future Resources Fund) LCCMR funding - 2004 Natural and Scenic Areas grant \$100K for acquisition downstream 32.4 acres on the river ENRTF 	Terry Bovee MDH, Mankato Mary Fralish Mankato Public Works		
		Bob Finley- PCA Dean Ehlers, Blue Earth County Parks		
2 - Jeffers	Petroglyphs	Tom Sanders Site		
Petroglyphs MN Historic site 1 hour	 World renown Indian rock carvings in native prairie setting - Petroglyphs (concentration of carvings 1,800 -5000 years old) - MN historic site geology, prairie, Native American involvement – prairie remnants and restorations 	Manager Brad Bolduan and		
Indoor space in case of rain. Indoor bathrooms.	 Rock Ridge SNA 200 acres, 165 remnant prairie that was previously hayed for many years. Was one of the earlier Native Prairie Bank easements acquired by the DNR in the 1990s. One of a few prairie bank easements subsequently acquired in fee-title to be managed as an SNA. Native Prairie Bank easement program Water Supply Recycling water from nearby quarry for ethanol 	Jim Sehl – DNR Eco Waters, New Ulm		
3- Heron Lake WMA	 WMA/AMA Ducks, birds, wildlife, wetlands, hunter access Water levels, aquatic vegetation 	Randy Markl and Jim Sehl DNR		
	 Water level management Fisheries Fisheries in Heron Lakes, Des Moines River, MN River Aquatic Invasive Species Electric common carp barrier to keep carp out of the Heron lakes installed in 1993 – new carp barrier in Iowa with some OHF funding Water Management PCA Water quality Improvement Project Sediment and flow control Conservation farming practices, drainage ditches, drainage tile, drainage control structures 	Ryan Doorenbos – DNR Area fisheries Supervisor, Windom Tony (James) Thompson Landowner/farmer Ross Behrends Heron Lake Watershed		

4 - Touch the Sky Prairie National Wildlife Refuge 45 minutes	 National Wildlife Refuge System in MN United State Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) currently owns more than 900 acres of federally land part of the larger Northern Tall Grass Prairie Wildlife Refuge Brandenburg Foundation Their efforts to establish the Touch the Sky Prairie National Wildlife Refuge. They purchased most of the land and then resold to the USFWS. The foundation still owns some land including some with a grass land easement held by Service, 	Todd Luke USFWS District Manager Windom. Fred Harris, DNR Ecologist Dave Smith, Secretary for the Brandenburg Foundation
5 - Blue Mound State Park Dinner and tour 2 hours	 Blue Mounds State Park Dinner at the visitor center (Manfred house - inside or outside depending on weather) Bison herd Historic quarry trail – to see the quartzite cliffs Mystery rock alignment – 150 feet long aligned with summer equinox (WPA infrastructure – dams in park, Mound Creek; upper and lower Mound Lake (2 miles north of visitor center) Hydrogeology/ground water issues The bedrock types there (including the Sioux Quartzite and Morton Gneiss that you will see) are almost exclusively non-aquifers. They are overlain by very clay-rich glacial sediments in which aquifers are generally smaller and less common. Limited water, solid rock with few aquifers. Rural Water supply/elevated nitrate levels Lincoln/Pipestone and Red Rock Rural Water System - elevated nitrates 	Craig Beckman Park Manager Dale Setterholm – Assistant Director, Minnesota Geological (MGS) - U of M Jim Sehl - DNR Assistant Eco- waters Regional Manager
Wednesday June 19 6- Pipestone National Monument 45 minutes	National Park Service – National Monument - Overview of site - Circular trail to stone quarry and waterfall (0.75 miles) - Native American importance - Exhibits	Glen Livermont – NPS Superintendent
7- Prairie Coteau SNA 45 minutes	 Prairie Coteau SNA Prairie Coteau is one of the most important and stunning prairies in southwestern Minnesota.(329 acres) SNA program Prairie bank easement program Prairie Plan (core area) Minnesota Biological Survey Pollinator habitat 	Fred Harris and Robert Dana, DNR ecologists Emilee Nelson, Coordinating Wildlife Biologist, Pheasants Forever

Renewable Energy • energy efficiency • solar • wind (10kw Turbine 120 feet tall) • geothermalKevin Mixon – DNR Environmental Review, New Ulm9- Morton Outcrops SNA 45 minutesMorton Outcrops SNA • Geology/3.3 billion years old exposed at the surfaceJason Beckler Renville County SWCD (320) 523- 155945 minutesMinnesota River Planning • Blueway/greenways Minnesota River Planning effortsCarl Colwell, MN River Planner, DNR also City of Morton Mayor10 - Fort Ridgely Historic site/ State park 45 minutesFort Ridgely State Park • Park topics • Recreation opportunities • Recreation opportunities • ENRTF recent park land acquisitionJoanne Svendsen DNR, Assistant Park Manager, park topics	8- Camden State Park	Camden State Park - Park topics	Bill Dinesen - State Park Manager
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