

## LCCMR Southwest Minnesota Site visits

June 18 and 19, 2013

<b>Tuesday, June 18</b>		
Site	Topics	Presenters
<p><b>1- Rapidan Dam</b> (Southwest of Mankato)</p> <p>1 hour</p> <p>Pie and coffee from Dam Store</p>	<p><b>Blue Earth River</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Water quality, water quality monitoring, impoundment, sedimentation, high/low flows, Greater Blue Earth Watershed</li> <li>- Drinking water – Mankato water supply</li> <li>- Hydropower energy generation/dam maintenance</li> <li>- Blue Earth River State Water Trail - kayaking, potential expansion of water access to accommodate increasing outfitter use.</li> </ul> <p><b>Rapidan Dam County Park</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- LCCMR funding -1975 \$6,000 – develop playground, picnic area , canoe portage (Future Resources Fund)</li> <li>- LCCMR funding - 2004 Natural and Scenic Areas grant \$100K for acquisition downstream 32.4 acres on the river ENRTF</li> </ul>	<p><b>Todd Kolander and Leo Getsfried</b> – DNR Eco Waters, New Ulm</p> <p><b>Terry Bovee MDH,</b> Mankato</p> <p><b>Mary Fralish</b> Mankato Public Works</p> <p><b>Bob Finley- PCA</b></p> <p><b>Dean Ehlers,</b> Blue Earth County Parks</p>
<p><b>2 - Jeffers Petroglyphs</b> MN Historic site</p> <p>1 hour</p> <p>Indoor space in case of rain. Indoor bathrooms.</p>	<p><b>Petroglyphs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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</li> </ul> <p><b>Rock Ridge SNA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- One of a few prairie bank easements subsequently acquired in fee-title to be managed as an SNA.</li> <li>- Native Prairie Bank easement program</li> </ul> <p><b>Water Supply</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Recycling water from nearby quarry for ethanol</li> </ul>	<p><b>Tom Sanders</b> Site Manager</p> <p><b>Brad Bolduan and Jim Sehl – DNR</b> Eco Waters, New Ulm</p>
<p><b>3- Heron Lake WMA</b></p> <p>1 hour</p>	<p><b>WMA/AMA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ducks, birds, wildlife, wetlands, hunter access</li> <li>- Water levels, aquatic vegetation</li> <li>- Water level management</li> </ul> <p><b>Fisheries</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fisheries in Heron Lakes, Des Moines River, MN River</li> <li>- Aquatic Invasive Species</li> <li>- Electric common carp barrier to keep carp out of the Heron lakes installed in 1993 – new carp barrier in Iowa with some OHF funding</li> </ul> <p><b>Water Management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- PCA Water quality Improvement Project</li> <li>- Sediment and flow control</li> <li>- Conservation farming practices, drainage ditches, drainage tile, drainage control structures</li> </ul>	<p><b>Randy Markl and Jim Sehl DNR</b></p> <p><b>Ryan Doorenbos – DNR</b> Area fisheries Supervisor, Windom</p> <p><b>Tony (James) Thompson</b> Landowner/farmer</p> <p><b>Ross Behrends</b> Heron Lake Watershed</p>

<p><b>4 - Touch the Sky Prairie National Wildlife Refuge</b></p> <p>45 minutes</p>	<p><b>National Wildlife Refuge System in MN</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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</li> </ul> <p><b>Brandenburg Foundation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Their efforts to establish the Touch the Sky Prairie National Wildlife Refuge. They purchased most of the land and then re-sold to the USFWS. The foundation still owns some land including some with a grass land easement held by Service,</li> </ul>	<p><b>Todd Luke</b> USFWS District Manager Windom.</p> <p><b>Fred Harris, DNR</b> Ecologist</p> <p><b>Dave Smith,</b> Secretary for the Brandenburg Foundation</p>
<p><b>5 - Blue Mound State Park</b></p> <p>Dinner and tour</p> <p>2 hours</p>	<p><b>Blue Mounds State Park</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dinner at the visitor center (Manfred house</li> <li>- - inside or outside depending on weather)</li> <li>- Bison herd</li> <li>- Historic quarry trail – to see the quartzite cliffs</li> <li>- Mystery rock alignment – 150 feet long aligned with summer equinox</li> </ul> <p>(WPA infrastructure – dams in park, Mound Creek; upper and lower Mound Lake (2 miles north of visitor center)</p> <p><b>Hydrogeology/ground water issues</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- Rural Water supply/elevated nitrate levels</li> <li>- Lincoln/Pipestone and Red Rock Rural Water System - elevated nitrates</li> </ul>	<p><b>Craig Beckman</b> Park Manager</p> <p><b>Dale Setterholm –</b> Assistant Director, Minnesota Geological (MGS) - U of M</p> <p><b>Jim Sehl - DNR</b> Assistant Eco-waters Regional Manager</p>
<p><b>Wednesday June 19</b></p>		
<p><b>6- Pipestone National Monument</b></p> <p>45 minutes</p>	<p><b>National Park Service – National Monument</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Overview of site</li> <li>- Circular trail to stone quarry and waterfall (0.75 miles)</li> <li>- Native American importance</li> <li>- Exhibits</li> </ul>	<p><b>Glen Livermont –</b> NPS Superintendent</p>
<p><b>7- Prairie Coteau SNA</b></p> <p>45 minutes</p>	<p><b>Prairie Coteau SNA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prairie Coteau is one of the most important and stunning prairies in southwestern Minnesota.(329 acres)</li> <li>- SNA program Prairie bank easement program</li> <li>- Prairie Plan (core area)</li> <li>- Minnesota Biological Survey</li> <li>- Pollinator habitat</li> </ul>	<p><b>Fred Harris and Robert Dana, DNR</b> ecologists</p> <p><b>Emilee Nelson,</b> Coordinating Wildlife Biologist, Pheasants Forever</p>

<p><b>8- Camden State Park</b></p>	<p><b>Camden State Park</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Park topics</li> </ul> <p><b>Renewable Energy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- energy efficiency</li> <li>- solar</li> <li>- wind (10kw Turbine 120 feet tall)</li> <li>- geothermal</li> <li>-</li> </ul> <p><b>Buffalo Ridge Wind generation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- wind generation</li> <li>- environmental review</li> </ul>	<p><b>Bill Dinesen -</b> State Park Manager</p> <p><b>Kevin Mixon –</b> DNR Environmental Review, New Ulm</p>
<p><b>9- Morton Outcrops SNA</b></p> <p>45 minutes</p>	<p><b>Morton Outcrops SNA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Geology/3.3 billion years old exposed at the surface</li> </ul> <p><b>Minnesota River Planning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Blueway/greenways Minnesota River Planning efforts</li> </ul>	<p><b>Jason Beckler</b> Renville County SWCD (320) 523-1559</p> <p><b>Carl Colwell, MN</b> River Planner, DNR also City of Morton Mayor</p> <p><b>Brad Bolduan,</b> DNR</p>
<p><b>10 - Fort Ridgely Historic site/ State park</b></p> <p>45 minutes</p>	<p><b>Fort Ridgely State Park</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Park topics</li> <li>- Recreation opportunities</li> <li>- ENRTF recent park land acquisition</li> </ul> <p><b>Historic Fort</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Building</li> <li>- Historic significance</li> <li>- Recreation</li> </ul>	<p><b>Joanne Svendsen</b> DNR, Assistant Park Manager, park topics</p> <p><b>Ben Leonard</b> Executive Director, Nicollet Historical</p>