

CANNON RIVER WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP

P.O. Box 501, Faribault, MN 55021
Vol. 1, No. 1

507-332-0488
February 1992

NEWSLETTER

FIRST EDITION

ANNUAL MEETING

Welcome aboard on our first excursion as we ramble down the Cannon on our course to improve its water quality & natural systems.

Can we rescue & restore the Cannon? We're all to blame & the quicker we get started, the faster it will happen. We know the problems but we also need to hear the positive things that are being done every day. We hope this newsletter will give you enough of both to increase your "sense of pride" & get you anxious for action....



NAME THIS NEWSLETTER

What's a good name for this newsletter - Cannon River Ramblings? Paddle Patter?

An anonymous donor has offered \$5. for the best name to be voted on by the executive board. Call or send in your suggestion by March 31st.

The Annual Meeting of the Cannon River Watershed Partnership will be held Sunday, March 15th at the newly completed Riverbend Nature Center Headquarters on the Southeast edge of Faribault from 2-5 p.m. (Map enclosed)

The agenda will include a brief review several exciting CRWP projects underway & how you can get involved, election of board members, proposals for fund raising & dues structure, plus other business. Nominations for the board of directors are being taken at the CRWP Office.

The program will feature Dr. Henry Quade, Mankato State University Water Resources Director who will speak on the topic "Citizen Responsibilities in Improving Water Quality". He will bring an interesting perspective as South Central 110B Project Coordinator for a 13 county Joint Powers Group, plus being Director of the MRAP or Minnesota River Assessment Project.

There will be ample time after the program to explore The River Bend Nature Center.

Refreshments will be served. Bring a friend!

P.S. A hearty welcome to Nature Conservancy members in this area who are being invited to attend our annual meeting!

"To protect and improve the surface and ground water resources and the natural systems of the Cannon River Watershed"

PARTNERS IN PROGRESS

What is the Cannon River Watershed Partnership? It's folks like you & I who believe that everyday people can make a difference in the quality of our environment. We do this through linking six County governments that span the watershed, with the active participation of citizens, school districts & Main Street businesses. How did this unlikely marriage come about?

We have to look back to the mid 80's when the Legislature passed the Comprehensive Local Water Planning Act which encouraged Counties to examine water mgt. problems & opportunities & develop strategies for protection & improvement of surface & groundwater resources. As Le Sueur, Rice, Waseca, Steele, Dakota & Goodhue Counties developed their plans, it became apparent that water management extends beyond political boundaries & that it is a watershed-wide concern.

In the fall of '89, all interested parties had the first meeting in Northfield to discuss how to protect the Cannon River & it's watershed by tying together County Water Plans. State & local agencies, environmental groups & interested citizens formed a steering committee to examine potential projects which led to a proposal to the Legislature to set up a Water Resources Center, begin water quality monitoring, fund water mgt. research & begin educational events. By the spring of 1990 this newly formed group organized the Cannon River Watershed Partnership, a non profit corporation with a board of

directors comprised of County Commissioners, Soil & Water Conservation District personnel & citizens. The Nature Conservancy provided grant money to launch the Partnership & allow the hiring of a part-time director.

The Partnership then pressed ahead to start watershed protection & improvement projects. Receiving \$54,000. for the research & demo portion of the legislative proposal, the Partnership in turn received nearly 20 proposals for water quality improvement projects by late fall of '91.

Other exciting initiatives include volunteers responding to implement the Adopt-A-River program on the Cannon & Straight Rivers. This project aims to clean up trash along the river corridors & heighten awareness of the river environment. Also the Partnership is coordinating with school districts to start a River Watch program where Sr. High students measure water quality along the rivers from headwaters to mouth.

All of this activity is the result of concerned citizens that recognize water quality protection & watershed health are the responsibilities of everyone. The Partnership offers an opportunity to organize & focus our efforts across the land we live on.

Come join us & help shape the future of natural resources management & protection!

(Contributed by Dirk Peterson)

It's A Deal!



RIVER WATCH

After much discussion at several meetings last summer & fall, the River Watch Committee was re-activated with it's first meeting on Feb. 4th. DNR & MPCA reps along with college & high school faculty, CRWP board members & your exec. director discussed plans to assemble an info packet for schools describing 3 levels of possible participation in a standardized water sampling & testing program.

All 13 Sr. High Science/Biology dept. in the watershed will be invited to attend a daytime River Watch meeting during the week of March 16-20, just before the spring break for most schools.

Training meetings will be held in early April with actual water sampling to take place in late April-early May, weather permitting. Another round of testing could be done in the fall & a "water congress" type of meeting held to exchange test results & discuss possible implications.



ADOPT-A-RIVER

Would you like to take part in a program to clean up the rivers & streams within the Cannon River Watershed?

Then plan to attend a meeting Thursday, March 5th at 6:30 p.m. in the CRWP office. You'll join with others in establishing a watershed wide river clean up to be held June 13-14, 1992. This will be the first of many projects undertaken by the partnership to beautify OUR river systems & improve water quality too.

Two areas which have been adopted & cleaned up yearly are on the Straight & Cannon Rivers, headed up by John Shepard who leads the River Rangers in cleaning up a 5 mile stretch upstream from the town of Welch. They have removed hundreds of pounds of material including old appliances. Also, John Busby of Medford has been working on a section of the Straight River from the Steele/Rice Co. line downstream to CR 19. Both of these efforts are outstanding examples of individuals taking the initiative, accepting the responsibility for a portion of the big picture & doing what they can to begin cleaning it up.

Adoptions are currently being organized on the Straight River between Owatonna & Medford & on the Cannon River between Faribault & Northfield. (a meeting for the latter section was held Tuesday, Feb. 18th at the CRWP office at 7:00 p.m..) Both areas will require many volunteers to get the job done & a commitment from the heart to make the adoption a lasting one. We hope interest is shown in the Waterville-Morrissett-Warsaw area & from Northfield to the mouth at Red Wing as well.

For info about the Adopt-A-River program for a certain area, or if you are interested in helping in any area previously mentioned, please contact the CRWP Office at 507-332-0488. Canoe maps of the Straight & Cannon Rivers are available at the office.

(By Larry Bauer, Chrm. of the Adopt-A-River)



PRESERVING BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

LCMR GRANTS AWARDED

At their Feb. 10th meeting, your CRWP Board approved the recommendations of the LCMR Grant Proposal Review Committee to award the following water quality & natural system demonstration grants: Cannon Falls Nature Area (Goodhue) \$9,662, Conservation Tillage (Dakota) \$4,805, Ecological Aquascaping for Water Quality (Rice) \$3,270, Manure Mgt. Demo (Steele/Rice) \$13,000, Self-Guided Interpretive Trail (Goodhue) \$7,000, Survey of Rice County Wetland Diversity (Rice) \$6,233, The Wood Turtle (Rice/Dakota) \$5,500, Vegetative Filter Strips (Steele) \$1,220, and Weed Control in Trees (Rice) \$635.

Several very worthwhile proposals that did not quite meet LCMR grant guidelines included Cannon River Tributary Monitoring (Waseca), Maple Basswood Restoration (U. of M.), Ecological Profile of the Watershed (John & Lansing Shepard), Feasibility of Community Drainfields on Lake Tetonka (LeSueur), Phosphorus Trapping (Rice), Restored Wetland Map (Rice), Wetland Restoration Technical Asst. (Rice), Willow Creek & Darts Park Dam Improvements (Steele).

About \$160,000. was requested in 18 proposals but there was only \$54,000. available to distribute. Many thanks to the following review committee members who literally burned the mid-night oil to make their recommendations to the CRWP Board: Myrna Halbach, Goodhue Co. Water Planner, Jim Zimmerman, Waseca County Farmer, Cathy Larson/Albers, Northfield, Metro Waste Control Commission, Dave

Peterson, BWSR, Rochester, Scott Johnson, Red Wing, Lee Gansky, MPCA, Rochester, John Metzke, Northfield Middle School Ist., and Elaine Feikema, Faribault, CRWP Exec. Board Member.

CRWP NETWORKING & COMMUNICATIONS

(by your Acting Exec. Dir. Roger Wilkowske)

- * Nerstrand Futures Committee asked CRWP to be a co-sponsor on a grant application.
- * Offered to help Northfield Committee on Environmental Impact of Highway 3 Const..
- * CRWP Update to be given to Feb. 25th LeSueur Co. Board
- * Contacts & info shared with N.Cannon Riv. WMO, Little Cannon River Sub Watershed, newspaper editors, radio stations, Goodhue Co. Board, SWCD's, co. water planners, Minn. Ext. Service, high school & college faculty, Land Stewardship, The Nature Conservancy, Citizens for a Better Environment, DNR, MPCA, MDA, Minn. Geological Survey, Red Wing Env. Learning Center, Cannon River Trail, Zumbro/Root River & South Central Minn. 110B project coordinators, BWSR, Blandin Foundation, etc..
- * Speaking appearances set for service clubs in Steele & Rice Counties, Rice Co. Bird Watchers, Rice Co. Sport Fisheries, H.S. Env. Ed. Day in Waseca County, half hour programs on KRFO Owatonna & KDHL Faribault, news releases sent & office computer purchased for \$3,000. under budget.

THANK YOU

Many thanks to all volunteers who have helped with various CRWP efforts since we started. A good example of this is DIXIE HOUSER of Kilkenny who coordinated the planning & construction of our 3 panel, very sharp looking CRWP table top display. Since Jan. 1, it's been on display in Goodhue, Steele & Rice Counties with plans to go to several more place. It surely helps to create awareness...



Adopt-A-River

Wanted: People interested in improving the water quality of the Cannon River clean up June 13 and 14. Call the Cannon River Watershed Partnership at 332-0488.

RECENT CRWP HEADLINES

River program gains strength

Goodhue County rejoins watershed partnership

River cleaning meeting Tuesday
The Cannon River Watershed Program will

Faribault July
Helping the river

Group aims to clean up river

Watershed partnership includes six counties

Owatonna

Well-being of river topic at conference
The Cannon River Watershed Partnership will sponsor

River program growing
By PAULINE SCHREIBER

1992 CALENDAR

Because monthly board meetings involve time & travel expense, your executive board has decided to hold only 6 of them for the next year with a newsletter being mailed in the off months. Following is the tentative schedule: (Board mtgs. are on 1st Mon.eve.)

MARCH - ANN.MTG. - FARIBAULT

APRIL - BD.MTG. - C.FALLS
(LITTLE CAN.WATERSHED?)

MAY - NEWSLETTER

JUNE - BD.MTG. - SAKATAH PARK
(RIVER CLEAN-UP)

SUMMER EVENTS ON THE RIVER

(B.AASE KYAK TRIP, RIVERWATCH)

JULY - NEWSLETTER

AUGUST - BD.MTG. - MINERAL SPRINGS PARK, OWATONNA

SEPTEMBER - FALL CONFERENCE (BLAIR) - RIVER CLEAN-UP, NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER - BD.MTG.-LESUEUR CO.

NOVEMBER - NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER - HOLIDAY PARTY

NORTHFIELD OR RED WING

JANUARY '93 - BD. MTG.- WASECA NEWSLETTER

DUES ARE DUE

Our membership is nearing the 100 mark & still growing! To keep the momentum going, plan now to renew yours soon.

At our Mar. 15th Annual Mtg., the following dues structure will be proposed:

- Basic-indiv. or family-\$15
- Contributing.....\$25
- Supporting.....\$50
- Guarantor.....\$100

(A separate gift & donor schedule will also be developed.)

Annual dues can be paid that day after the above schedule is approved. A record of your last payment will be available that day.

We will leave your name on the mailing list unless you tell us to remove it.

DEVELOPING A SENSE OF WATERSHED PRIDE

CANNON RIVER WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP

OFFICERS

Chairman.....Greg Carlson....Faribault.....507-332-2229
V. Chairman..Larry Bauer..... "507-334-2539
Secretary....Elaine Feikema.. "507-334-3881
Treasurer....Dirk Peterson...Northfield....507-663-1787
Acting Dir...Roger Wilkowske.Faribault.....507-332-0488

BOARD MEMBERS

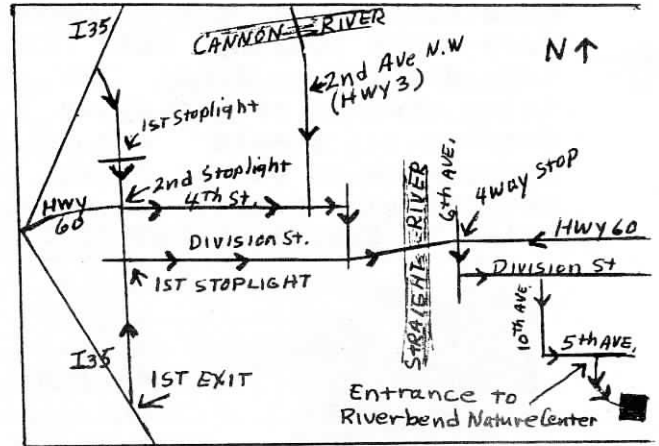
County Commissioner Representatives

Peter Underdahl, Dennison
Cal Condon, Waseca
Les Oeltjenbruns, Owatonna
Joe Harris, Hastings
Terry Bovee, Le Center

SWCD Representatives

Don Banks, Cannon Falls
Charles Gregor, Waterville
Larry Hagen, Waseca
Rene Koester, Nerstrand
Vern Wilker, Owatonna
Wayne Zellmer, Farmington
Robert Lind, Randolph

MAP TO NATURE CENTER



CITIZEN MEMBERS

Bruce Blair, Welch, Frank Chesley, Red Wing, Charles Hruska,
Waterville, Ross Nelson, Welch, Krista Wilkowske, Northfield, Jim
Zimmerman, Waseca.



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