

MISSISSIPPI RIVER FORUM

Friday, May 17, 2013

8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Science Museum of Minnesota—Discovery Hall
120 West Kellogg Boulevard, St. Paul, MN 55102

7:45-8:30 **Registration and Continental Breakfast**

8:30 **Welcoming Remarks**

Patrick Hamilton. Director—Global Change Initiatives, Science Museum of Minnesota.

John Anfinson. Chief of Resource Management—Mississippi National River and Recreation Area, National Park Service.

Katie Nyberg. Executive Director, Mississippi River Fund.

8:45-9:30 **Have Minnesota's Rivers Become More Erosive?**

When you drive through the flat, fertile lands of Minnesota and marvel at the endless rows of corn and soybean fields, you likely don't notice the vast man-made plumbing network, referred to as tiling, which makes these fields productive. It's that unseen network that is also causing our stream banks to erode at unnatural and increased rates, according to a new study by a team of researchers at the Science Museum of Minnesota and several major universities. The researchers found that artificial drainage could be identified as the major driver of increased river flow, exceeding the effects of precipitation and crop conversion. Hear about the study's findings, including its surprising discovery of the primary way that drainage alters river flow.

Shawn Schottler. St. Croix Watershed Research Station of the Science Museum of Minnesota.

9:30-9:45 **Break**

9:45-10:30 **Survey Said! Future Watershed Research Agenda for Minnesota**

In 2008, the University of Minnesota hosted a symposium to identify key watershed research needs in a number of areas, including Monitoring, Assessment and Standards, and Evaluation. That symposium has helped guide much of the research that has taken place in Minnesota since—and many of the research needs identified at the 2008 symposium have been completed. In February 2013, a follow-up symposium was held to identify the state's research needs for the *next* five years. Come learn what was discussed and what items are being included in a prioritized research agenda for Minnesota's water resources.

Faye Sleeper. University of Minnesota, Water Resources Center.

10:30-11:15 To Market We Go: Certifying Sustainable Crop Production

Many conversations about water-friendly farming practices end with a lament along the lines of, “We need a market-based incentive for these practices!” Enter the Responsible Crop Certificate (RCC) program. This program will allow food companies interested in marketing environmentally-friendly consumer products to purchase "Responsible Crop Certificates" from participating corn and soybean producers, who will verify they've met a specific set of environmental requirements. The idea is that by trading the environmental performance separately from the physical commodity, food companies will be able to claim they are supporting environmental responsibility in commodity supply chains, while farmers who participate will get recognition for their environmental stewardship. This voluntary, market-based program offers a private sector led initiative to protect our shared water resources. Learn how this model is being developed, and weigh in on how it can be as robust and successful as possible.

Paul Helgeson. Gold'n Plump Poultry.

11:15-11:45 Break

11:45-12:30 Keynote Address: Commissioner John Linc Stine, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

John Linc Stine was appointed Commissioner of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) by Governor Dayton in May 2012. He joined the MPCA in March 2011, as Deputy Commissioner. Prior to joining the MPCA, John served as Assistant Commissioner at the Minnesota Department of Health, where he was responsible for overseeing the department’s public health emergency preparedness, environmental health, infectious disease prevention/control and the public health laboratory functions. John also worked for 25 years with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources as a hydrologist and administrator specializing in shoreland, flood plain, and wild and scenic river programs, trails and waterways, and water resource management and regulation. John received a Bachelor of Science degree in Soil and Water Resource Management from the University of Minnesota. He is married with two sons.

We are honored that Commissioner Stine will be with us to discuss the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency’s role in helping to manage and improve the Mississippi River, going forward.

12:30 Closing Remarks

Lark Weller. Water Quality Coordinator, Mississippi National River and Recreation Area.

***This event has been brought to you by the National Park Service,
with support from the Mississippi River Fund and the McKnight Foundation.
Thank you to the Science Museum of Minnesota for hosting today’s event.***