

Letter to the 2013 Legislature

Minnesota Statutes 103F.361-378 requires the Mississippi Headwaters Board to file a biennial report to the Legislature. This is an assessment of its plan to protect the first 400 miles of the river as well as a summary of activities for the past two years.

As you review this report let me point out some of the highlights.

December 16, 2011 the MHB board met with DNR Commissioner Landwehr and Senator Bob Lessard. In that discussion, Senator Lessard stressed that the role of the MHB is as important today as the day it was created back in 1980. Commissioner Landwehr expressed his support of the MHB and their initiatives. He supported the local management of the Mississippi River at the county level and pledged to work with the legislature to properly fund the MHB. We thank these gentlemen for their efforts.

The MHB board has determined that an Executive Director is needed to coordinate the activities within the corridor of the Upper Mississippi Headwaters. This position will enhance the mission and vision of the MHB. We thank the Legislature for an increased funding level and hope this can achieve our goal to re-instate this position.

MHB was the recipient of a \$100,000 grant from BWSR Clean Water Fund titled, "Prioritizing Conservation Projects and Implementation in the 400 mile Mississippi Headwaters". You will find more detail of the project in this report. It is exciting to watch this project develop and, as the data is compiled, we can already see the value and the future potential of where this may take us.

As we continue to review regulatory zoning actions within the corridor, the data gathered from the eight member counties through this grant will enhance our ability to make well informed decisions and ensure the water quality of the river for future generations.

Together in Public Service,

Davin Tinquist, '13 Chairman

HISTORY AND AUTHORITY

The Mississippi Headwaters Board (MHB) was organized in 1980 as an alternative to federal control of the first 400 miles of the Mississippi River. The counties of Clearwater, Hubbard, Beltrami, Cass, Itasca, Aitkin, Crow Wing and Morrison entered into a joint powers agreement under Minnesota Statutes 103F.361-378 to preserve and protect the shorelands of the Mississippi River and seven Headwater lakes. The counties adopted a shoreland zoning ordinance for land and recreation use within the corridor as a means to carry out its mandate of protection.

The Mississippi River is North America's largest River and also a working river from Lake Itasca to New Orleans. In the headwaters, the Mississippi is a corridor for pipelines, highways and rail traffic; important for fish and wildlife and the accompanying recreational seeker. It is an important water source for northern Minnesota industry and communities and those far beyond the first 400 miles of the river.

This is a report on the MHB's progress toward meeting its goal to protect this great river.



Celebrating Over 30 years

...to identify and protect the natural, cultural, scenic, scientific and recreational values of the Mississippi River's first 400 miles



www.mississippiheadwaters.org

218.824.1307



**'12
NORTHERN MN
REGIONAL
SCIENCE FAIR
MHB AWARD
RECIPIENTS:**

2012

1st Place -
Walker Cage

2nd Place -
Sarah Hamrin

3rd Place -
Allison Ward



2011 - 2012 Mississippi Headwaters Board (left to right): Davin Tinquist (Itasca), Neal Gaalswyk (Cass), '11 Chair Paul Thiede (Crow Wing), Jack Frost (Beltrami), Brian Napstad (Aitkin), Tom Wenzel (Morrison), Lyle Robinson (Hubbard), Dean Newland (Crow Wing) and Office Asst. Pam Kichler



2012 - 2013 Mississippi Headwaters Board (left to right): Paul Thiede (Crow Wing), Brian Napstad (Aitkin), '13 Chair Davin Tinquist (Itasca), Jack Frost (Beltrami), Neal Gaalswyk (Cass), Dean Newland (Clearwater), Kevin Maurer (Morrison), Cal Johannsen (Hubbard) and Office Asst. Pam Kichler

2011 - 2013 Biennium Activity Assessment

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

In late 2011, the MHB submitted an RFP via the BWSR Clean Water Fund (Accelerated Implementation Grant) process. The MHB received Award notice in Dec. '11 and began work the following spring on the 2-year \$100k Grant.

The BWSR Grant supported the work of a 3-Phase project in cooperation with the member counties. The project was to develop implementation plans and strategies geared specifically for the Mississippi River and incorporate them into the individual County Comprehensive Local Water Plans.

The 3 Phases include:

☼ Coordinated dataset of G.I.S. & analysis of land use along the project corridor.

☼ Gather water quality trend analysis along the river, critical area identification and implementation strategy identification to develop potential conservation projects, often crossing county boundaries.

☼ Integrate implementation strategies (language) into Comprehensive Local Water Management Plans

'Snap-shot' of other 2011 - 2013 Activity:

June '11 – New MHB WEB site roll-out

3/30/12 – Held a 3rd Strategic Planning Session (w/guest speaker DNR Commissioner Landwehr). The meeting provided an opportunity to introduce details of the BWSR grant.

11/30/12 – Held the first Upper Mississippi Flood Mitigation Task Force meeting in Grand Rapids. The attendees were brought together to open dialog between the ACOE and valued stakeholders affected by the June '12 flooding events to develop future flood control strategies w/in the Headwaters region.

2011 – 2013 – Continued review/certification of Headwater area variances and CUP etc. As well as offering Letters of Support to various LGU's on projects w/in the region.

STATEMENT OF REVENUES

REVENUES	'11-'12	'12-'13
State of MN Grant Appropriations -	\$ 53,000	\$ 53,000
Other Appropriations (County) -	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000
Other Grants / Income -	\$ 54,907	\$ 1,801
Sales	\$ 4,196	\$ 2,172
TOTAL	\$ 124,103	\$ 68,973

SUMMARY OF '11-'13 IN-KIND EXPENSES (w/in corridor)

	General & Zoning	Land	Highway
• Aitkin	\$ 4,722	\$ 103,494	\$
• Beltrami	\$ 2,406	\$ 3,956	\$ 94,974
• Cass	\$ 847	\$	\$ 147,416
• Clearwater	\$ 10,148		\$ 13,826
• Crow Wing	\$ 10,260	\$ 346	\$ 171,244
• Hubbard	\$ 1,422	\$	\$ 13,318
• Itasca	\$	\$ 7,278	\$
• Morrison	\$ 1,889	\$ 17,827	\$ 9,510
TOTAL	\$ 31,694	\$ 132,901	\$ 450,288



SUMMARY OF CORRIDOR ACTIONS (all 8 Counties)

	'11-'12	'12-'13
• Permits	55	38
• Variance	5	5
• Conditional Use	-----	2
• Denials/non-approvals	1	-----
• Plats	-----	2
• Amendments	-----	-----
• Annexations	-----	-----
• Complaints	1	-----
• Appeals	-----	-----
• Admin. Approvals	-----	-----
• Public Meetings	6	8
• Educational Workshops	2	1
• Forest Management Plans	3	-----
TOTAL	73	56

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

OPERATION EXPENSES	'11-'12	'12-'13
Salaries (inc benefits)	\$ 40,377	\$ 39,924
Per Diem	\$ 4,750	\$ 3,450
Professional Services	\$ 862	\$ 449
Mileage	\$ 5,413	\$ 4,962
Office Operations	\$ 10,748	\$ 10,079
Programs / Projects	\$ 700	\$ 39,032
TOTAL	\$ 62,850	\$ 97,896

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR THE 2013, 2014 BIENNIUM

The Mississippi Headwaters Board (MHB) seek to be a catalyst in identifying creative multi-county and regional solutions to better protect and enjoy the natural, cultural, historic, scientific and recreational values of the headwaters region of this world class resource.

MHB Outcome Projections:

- ▶ Re-establish presence with the state legislature and agencies.
- ▶ Continue coordination between 8 headwater's counties amongst: SWCDs, Planning & Zoning, Water Planners and county staff.
- ▶ Prepare comprehensive planning & work-plan development across jurisdictional boundaries using staff & all 40 County Commissioners.
- ▶ Engage LGU's, NGOs, citizens, local industry & tribal leaders, foundations, and other stakeholders via Citizens Advisory Board, Technical Advisory Board, Project Review Committee and Upper Mississippi Flood Mitigation Committee.
- ▶ Develop and Prioritize conservation projects along the corridor by gathering and synthesizing available water quality & GIS data to maximize conservation efforts and dollars.
- ▶ Identify and leverage sustainable funding mechanisms, such as Legacy funds, LCCMR, BWSR, MPCA, Private Foundations, etc.

The following are some additional goals for the 2013, 2014 Biennium:

- ▶ Create communication vehicles (brochures/newsletter/citizen forums etc).
- ▶ Improve involvement with river communities and reinvigorate area river protection programs.
- ▶ Further develop the environmental catalyst role of the MHB.