

OUTDOORS

CALL OF THE WILD

The Journal welcomes ideas for stories about people in our community who have a unique hunting, fishing or outdoors tale.
Call the Journal at 285-7411

SWCDs seek local feedback on Littlefork River

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Public discussions in January were held in Koochiching and St. Louis counties to present the most current report on the health of the Littlefork River Watershed and to invite public comment.

In March, follow-up meetings will be held to present updated information and to continue the discussion regarding future projects over the next few years.

Public dialogue and ideas are encouraged to aid in the collaborative process of identifying potential restoration project areas. Local partners will be asking the community for suggestions on future projects that could reduce sediment loads to the Littlefork River and the greater watershed. The event will include a meal sponsored

If you go

Koochiching and Itasca SWCDs will host two events, repeated in different locations for convenience:

- March 18, 4:30 p.m., Littlefork Community Building, 220 Main St., Littlefork.
- March 19, 4:30 p.m. in the French Town Hall, 7401 Highway 5.

by the Koochiching County Farm Bureau and discussions to shape the future of the community resources.

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in the French Town Hall, 7401 Highway 5.

Background

The passage of Minnesota’s Clean Water Legacy Act in 2006 provided policy framework and money for state and local governments to accelerate efforts to monitor, assess, and restore impaired waters, and to protect unimpaired waters.

The Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy, known as WRAPS, process is a 10-year repeating cycle. During the 10-year cycle, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and its partner organizations work on each of the state’s watersheds to evaluate water conditions, establish priorities and goals for improvement, and take actions designed to restore or protect water quality. The primary feature of the watershed approach is that it focuses on

the watershed’s condition as the starting point for water quality assessment, planning, implementation, and measurement of results.

During the first five years of the 10-year cycle, intensive water quality monitoring and assessments are conducted. The results of these efforts show which water bodies — lakes and streams — meet the water quality standards and which water bodies do not. For those water bodies that do not meet the water quality standards, a Total Maximum Daily Load, or TMDL, study is conducted.

A TMDL is a research project which determines the cause of the impaired waters and what reductions in the pollutant type are needed to meet the standards for those waters. Local partners then work on projects for restoration of impaired waters or

protection of high quality waters for the next five years. When a watershed’s 10 year cycle is completed, a new cycle begins.

Littlefork River WRAPS

The Littlefork River WRAPS process began in 2008 with monitoring and assessments by the MPCA, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Itasca Soil & Water Conservation District, and Koochiching SWCD.

Findings from combined data collections showed impairments in four segments of the Littlefork River’s main stem, totaling just over 100 river miles. These segments were then listed on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Impaired Waters List, also referred to as the “303(d) list.”

Currently, a TMDL study is being conducted on the Littlefork River to determine where the sediment is coming from, how much sediment is presently in the

river system, and what can be done to reduce the amount of sediment. The next cycle for data collection in the Littlefork River Watershed will begin again in 2018. During the next cycle we will be able to measure the results of restoration and protection projects implemented during the previous cycle.

Next steps

The time is approaching for local partners to develop projects that will result in a reduction of sediment in the river.

While public events in January focused on the TMDL report, the upcoming March events will focus on the draft WRAPS report produced by the MPCA and used to leverage grant funds to implement proposed projects.

For more information, contact Jolén Simon, Koochiching SWCD program coordinator, 283-1180; or Kim Slanga, Itasca SWCD Water Resources technician/specialist, 218-326-0017.



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PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF RANIER
PROPOSALS FOR COMMUNITY HALL
DECK REPLACEMENT

The City of Ranier is accepting design/build proposals for the replacement of the Ranier Community Hall deck and railings. A pre-bid conference will be held at the Ranier Community Hall on March 3 @ 1:00 pm. Final proposals must be submitted to the Ranier City office by March 10, 2015 @ 5:00 pm. Proposals may be submitted by e-mail @ cityofranier@frontiernet.net. Call Ranier City Administrator’s office @ 286-3311 with questions.

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL
DISTRICT NO. 361
INTERNATIONAL FALLS, MINNESOTA
SPECIAL MEETINGS NOTICE

Blue Ribbon Panel on March 3, 5:30 – 8:00 P.M.
Falls High School Library for strategic planning & goal development. A quorum of the School Board may be in attendance but no official action will be taken.

School Board on March 6, 5:30 – 8:00 P.M.
Falls High School Room 130 for a budget work session to discuss the FY16 budget. No official action will be taken.


Boise Paper employees award safety funds

Stores employees presented a portion of safety funds to Backus Community Center’s Ward Merrill last week and were recognized for leading the mill in safe-work days.

Boise Paper, A Division of Packaging Corporation of America, donated the funds in recognition of employee safety participation and a goal of zero incidents. The monies were divided by Backus Community Café, Falls Hunger Coalition and Salvation Army food pantries and winter athletic programs at Falls High, Littlefork/Big Falls and Indus schools.

“Employee engagement paved the way for over \$42,000 to local non-profits in 2014,” says Bert Brown, International Falls mill manager. “I congratulate stores employees for consistently leading the effort by achieving 100 percent safety participation and working over 10 years without an incident.”

For the past several years, monies have been set aside to assist organizations in Koochiching County based on internal safety efforts. Those interested in information about the program are encouraged to call 218.285.5312.



L-R: Stores employees Bobbi Bernath and Robin Begg, Backus Community Center executive director Ward Merrill, and Stores employees Todd Gordon, Kalsie Briggs, Jan Klow and Joe Schwartz. Missing are Stores employees Elaine Akset and Rhonda Wimmer.

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County Market LIQUOR

 <p>Coors & Coors Light 24 Pack Cans \$16⁹⁷</p>	 <p>Killian's Irish Red 12 Pack Bottles \$10⁹⁷</p>	 <p>Pabst Blue, Ribbon Beer 24 Pack BIG 16 OZ. CANS \$17⁹⁷</p>
 <p>Grain Belt Premium 12 Pack Bottles \$9⁹⁷</p>	 <p>Grain Belt Northeast 12 Pack Bottles \$10⁹⁷</p>	 <p>Bent Paddle Beer 6 Pack Cans \$8⁹⁸</p>
 <p>Smirnoff Vodka 1.5 Liter \$15⁹⁷</p>	 <p>Captain Morgan Spiced Rum 1.75 Liter \$19⁹⁷</p>	 <p>Beefeater Gin 1.75 Liter \$21⁹⁷</p>
 <p>Sutter Home Wines 1.5 Liter \$6⁹⁶</p>	 <p>Yellow Tail Wines 750 ml \$4⁹⁴</p>	 <p>Mark West Pinot Noir 750 ml \$6⁹⁶</p>

“ROLL YOUR OWN” PRODUCTS

Good Stuff Tobacco 6 oz. bag \$8⁹⁹	Good Stuff Tobacco 16 oz. bag \$20⁹⁹	Largo Tobacco 5 oz. bag \$8⁴⁹	Gambler Tubes King Size 200 Ct. \$2⁷⁹
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County Market LIQUOR

Prices good thru Friday, March 6, 2015

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Monday – Saturday
8a.m. – 10p.m.
Sunday - CLOSED