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Contact: Scott Sparlin, 507-276-2280, sesparlin@gmail.com; Ted Suss, (507) 828-3377, tedsuss@gmail.com; Forrest Peterson, 320-441-9772, forrestwpeterson@gmail.com

Minnesota River Congress names representation categories of Action Board members

New Ulm, Minn. – The new, citizen-led organization to promote the natural resource and economic health of the Minnesota River basin has announced representation categories of its governing Action Board.

As of Dec. 15, 19 of the 33 board positions have been filled, with three more pending. New applications are welcome, and will be reviewed at the next board meeting Jan. 26 in New Ulm. The meeting will also decide the date of next full Congress sometime in late February or early March.

Action Board members named so far and sectors they represent are the following:

Sectors (2 each)

- Business: Paul ‘Gus’ Davis, Greg Genz
- Agriculture: Brian Hicks, Louis Knieper
- Non-government organizations: Rylee Main
- Local government: Drew Campbell
- Soil and Water Conservation Districts: Jessie Shaffer
- Recreation: Mark Bosacker, Nancy Spooner Mueller

Major watersheds

- Lac qui Parle: Jim and Mary Stone (one shared representation)
- Hawk Creek: Forrest Peterson
- Yellow Medicine: Scott Tedrick
- Redwood River: Ted Suss
- Middle Minnesota River: Bob Finley
- Blue Earth River: Bryce Hoppie
- Le Sueur River: Jessica Nelson:

State agencies

- Board of Water and Soil Resources: Jeff Nielsen
- Dept. of Natural Resources: Skip Wright
- Pollution Control Agency: Joanne Boettcher/Lee Ganske (one seat shared)

Action Board seats remaining to be filled are the following:

Sectors (**2 each**)

- Non-government organizations (two current applicants)
- Local government (one current applicant)
- Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- Native American communities

Major watersheds

- Minnesota River Headwaters
- Pomme de Terre
- Chippewa River
- Cottonwood

- Watonwan River (one current Applicant)
- Lower Minnesota River (one current applicant)

State agencies

- Department of Health (one current applicant)
- Department of Agriculture (one pending applicant)
- Department of Transportation

When complete, the Action Board will set policy, goals, and objectives for the Congress. It will name a management committee to handle operations such as finance and communications.

The one-page application form asks for watershed residence, interest sector, and a brief statement of personal interest and qualifications. “We urge anyone interested to apply,” says Scott Sparlin of the Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River. Action Board application forms are available by contacting Sparlin at 507-276-2280, sesparlin@gmail.com.

More information about the Minnesota River Congress is available at:
www.watershedalliance.blogspot.com/.