

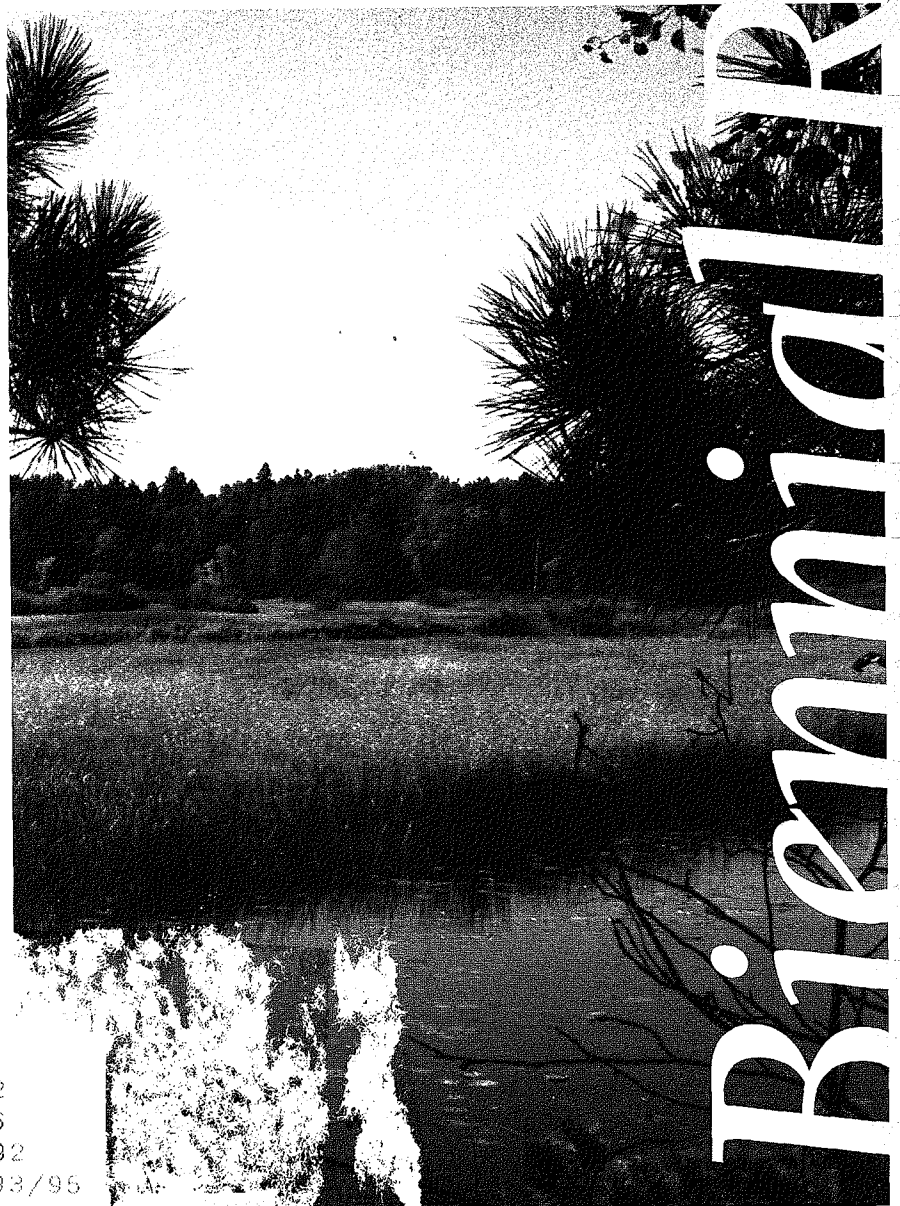
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Mississippi
Headwaters
Board

1993-1995



Biennial Report

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Letter to the 1995 Legislature

This is the seventh report of the Mississippi Headwaters Board (MHB) to the Minnesota Legislature, in fulfillment of the requirements of Minnesota Statutes 103F361-378.

That statute charges the MHB with the biennial assessment of the effectiveness of its plan in protecting the natural, cultural, scenic, scientific and recreational values of the first 400 miles of the Mississippi River.

In the 1993-95 biennium, the MHB reviewed regulatory actions of the eight member counties; investigated water quality of the Mississippi Headwaters and established similar programs on other rivers, and researched issues of management of the natural, cultural, scenic, scientific and recreational values of the Mississippi Headwaters.

The MHB surveyed recreational use of the Mississippi River, in association with Bemidji State University. This is the first comprehensive survey of recreational use of the Mississippi Headwaters and provides land use decision makers and recreation providers an in-depth look at who uses the river for recreation, how they rated their river experience, and the significance of the environment of the water and shoreland in defining the success of that experience.

"Mississippi Headwaters Guide Book" will be published in Winter 1995. The Guide Book assesses the natural, cultural, scenic, scientific and recreational values of the Mississippi Headwaters and suggests issues for long-term management and protection of the river corridor and its resources.

Minnesota statutes provide for protection of the Mississippi River. The efforts of the MHB in the 1993-95 biennium make that system of river protection comprehensive, by improving our knowledge of the river in its natural state, and by enhancing the ability of citizens to understand and protect the river and its environment. To be truly effective, the MHB must do more than regulate. It must inquire and it must educate.

Sincerely,

Allen Paulson, Chairman



History and Authority of MHB

The Mississippi Headwaters Board (MHB) is a joint powers board of Clearwater, Hubbard, Beltrami, Cass, Itasca, Aitkin, Crow Wing and Morrison counties organized in 1980 to protect and preserve the natural, cultural, scenic, scientific and recreational values of the first 400 miles of the Mississippi River. It achieves this goal through administration of local land use regulations, water quality monitoring, and by providing information and education programs designed to build stewardship of the river and adjacent lands.

The first 466 miles of the Mississippi River were recommended for study for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System in 1975; the study found portions of the river to be eligible for designation. The express intention of the MHB's organizers was to develop an alternate strategy for protecting the Mississippi River that kept protection at the local government level, managed by locally elected officials. The MHB proposed to protect the Mississippi by regulating use of private lands in the river corridor and by achieving cooperative management of public lands along the river.

This is a report on the MHB's progress towards meeting those goals.

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MHB limits land use and building dimensions in a defined corridor along the Mississippi River. These regulations limit density of development, protect water quality and favor natural aesthetics in the river corridor.

In the 1993-95 biennium, the MHB reviewed 70 regulatory actions of the eight member counties in the area under the board's jurisdiction, finding five actions not to be consistent with standards to protect the Mississippi River and finding the remaining 65 consistent with river protection rules. Together with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the MHB convened a Zoning Task Force to address administration of land use regulations on nonconforming lots of record. The MHB trained more than 500 local land use decision makers on legal and environmental issues of shoreland protection through zoning. Topics covered included defining takings, establishing a findings of fact, managing shoreland erosion and understanding the connection between ground water and surface water. MHB produced and is distributing a brochure describing the how a zoning board should make a findings of fact. A findings of fact provides the legal basis for zoning decisions.

MHB also engaged in research to better understand how to achieve its mission of protecting the Mississippi Headwaters. Research activities and publications of the biennium are:

- Grant Goltz. *A Geomorphology and Paleoenvironmental Model for the Mississippi Headwaters*. 1994
- Michael G. Hubbard. *The Impact of Dutch Elm Disease on the Vegetation of the Upper Mississippi River Floodplain Forests*. (Master's Thesis, Center for Environmental Studies, Bemidji State University) May 1994
- Brian Monk and Steven Dittman. *Baseline Survey of Benthic Macroinvertebrates in the Headwaters of the Mississippi River*. (Center for Environmental Studies, Bemidji State University for the Mississippi Headwaters Board, 1994)
- Patrick Welle and Norman Baer. *Recreation on the Headwaters of the Mississippi River: An Assessment of Users, Attitudes and Values for the first 400 Miles of the Mississippi River*. (Bemidji State University for the Mississippi Headwaters Board, 1994)
- Howard Mooers. *Investigation of the Ground and Surface Water Connection in the Itasca Moraine*. (University of Minnesota, Duluth, for the Mississippi Headwaters Board, 1994)
- Molly MacGregor and Steven Dittman. *Mississippi Headwaters River Protection Manual*. 1995

MHB researched, wrote and published a guide and assessment of the natural, cultural, scenic, scientific and recreational values of the first 400 miles of the Mississippi River. This guide book is produced in compliance with MHB's statutory directives and provides an inventory of resources of the river corridor and suggestions for actions by land and water managers. This activity was supported by a grant from The McKnight Foundations.

MHB entered into a partnership with the Metropolitan Council to plan for, mitigate and prevent spills of hazardous materials into the Mississippi River. The River Defense Network is composed of government agencies and industry with an interest in protection of the Mississippi River from spills. This activity was supported by the Blandin Foundation and the participating agencies and industries.



Assessment of River Health

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Water quality of the Mississippi Headwaters meets standards of state and federal rules, although some problems have been identified locally, according to analysis by Mississippi Headwaters River Watch Project.

Mississippi Headwaters Board measures the effectiveness of its regulatory program by monitoring the health of the river's water. Thirteen communities within the Mississippi Headwaters region participate in the monitoring program, through local middle schools, high schools and community colleges. Mississippi Headwaters River Watch Project provides communities with credible data that can support actions to protect water bodies by regulating land use. MHB has used River Watch data to support development of a program to revegetate eroding shorelines in Cass, Aitkin and Crow Wing counties and to investigate water quality impairment in a Morrison County tributary. Participating communities do more than monitor the Mississippi. River Watch students in Aitkin shared information about bacteria in the Ripple River with state fisheries managers. Crosby-Ironton's River Watch students measured the water quality of Serpent Lake and reported to the lake association.

In the biennium, MHB personnel established similar programs on the Long Prairie, Rum and Big Fork River, and on the Mississippi River in the Winona area, using funds from the McKnight Foundation or in the case of the Big Fork River, the community. The River Watch Project has established a baseline of water quality information about the river; spawned additional inquiries in water quality in the region and has provided classroom-based environmental education opportunities in the high schools and middle schools of participating communities.

Activities and accomplishments in the River Watch project in the biennium:

Routine collection of water quality data and reporting of results in 13 Mississippi Headwaters communities;

Establishment of a Volunteer Monitoring Network, extending River Watch onto Mississippi River tributaries and downstream on the Mississippi;

Grant from Minnesota Department of Education to enhance the service learning component of River Watch;

Activities of Mississippi Headwaters River Watch Project are supported by a grant from the Blandin Foundation. Participating communities and The McKnight Foundation are supporting related activities.



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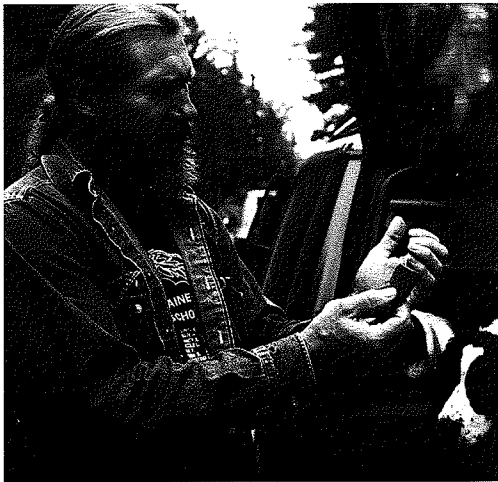
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Report of the 1993-95 Budget

In the 1981-83 biennium, MHB received funding through a grant from the Minnesota Legislature as recommended by the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources. In the 1983-85 biennium, MBH became a line item in the DNR Bureau of Planning budget. In the 1993-95 biennium, DNR switched the MBH's administration to its Division of Waters.

MHB reports \$2 of county services in the Mississippi Headwaters region for every \$1 from the state. MHB meets this match by contributions from member counties, private foundations, corporations and in-kind services of the member counties.

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Summary of 1993-95 MHB Operations

Statement of 1993-95 Revenues and Expenses

State of Minnesota Grant Appropriated	\$180,000.00
Blandin Foundation (River Watch)	\$180,000.00
The McKnight Foundation: Guide Book	\$ 35,000.00
Volunteer Monitoring Network	\$ 70,000.00
Central Minnesota Initiative Fund: (Morrison County Project)	\$ 9,000.00
Minnesota Power	\$ 2,500.00
Blandin Paper Company	\$ 2,500.00
Beltrami Electric Cooperative	\$ 500.00
Paul Bunyan Telephone	\$ 1,500.00
Consolidated Telephone Co.	\$ 500.00
Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (Inquiry and Education Project)	\$ 75,000.00
Chippewa National Forest Recreation Survey	\$ 4,800.00
Cellular 2000 phone donation	\$ 500.00
Interest Income	\$ 3,000.00
Sales of Publications and Videos	\$ 2,500.00
Carryover	\$ 48,981.46
Total 1993-95 Income	\$234,481.46

1993-95 Expenditures from State Grant

Salaries	\$ 73,659.55
Per Diem	\$ 15,260.00
Professional Services	\$ 33,143.03
Publications	\$ 30,377.98
Meeting Expenses	\$ 11,891.69
Mileage	\$ 19,451.92
Office Operations	\$ 7,826.34
River Stewardship	\$ 5,000.00
Total Expenditures	\$196,610.51

Summary of In-Kind Expenses

County	General Revenues	Land and Parks	Roads
Aitkin	\$ 3,021.00	\$87,183.30	\$ 66,565.00
Beltrami	\$ 53,496.61	\$ 4,912.22	\$137,500.00
Cass	\$ 31,436.00	\$ 286.00	\$179,759.61
Clearwater	\$ 3,757.38	\$ 160.69	\$ 2,324.65
Crow Wing	\$ 26,554.14	\$ 654.86	\$199,342.19
Hubbard	\$ 843.20	\$ 197.04	\$339,054.49
Itasca	\$ 1,524.00	295.53	\$ 14,239.44
Morrison	\$ 5,258.65	\$11,514.78	\$ 23,367.00
Totals	\$125,890.98	\$105,204.42	\$962,152.38

1994 MHB Board and Staff

Allen Paulson, Chairman, Clearwater County
Patricia Alberg, Vice Chair, Hubbard County
William Block, Secretary-Treasurer, Morrison County
Brad Nord, Beltrami County
Virgil Foster, Cass County
Jay Braford, Itasca County
Margaret Sherman, Aitkin County
Barbara Uppgaard, Crow Wing County

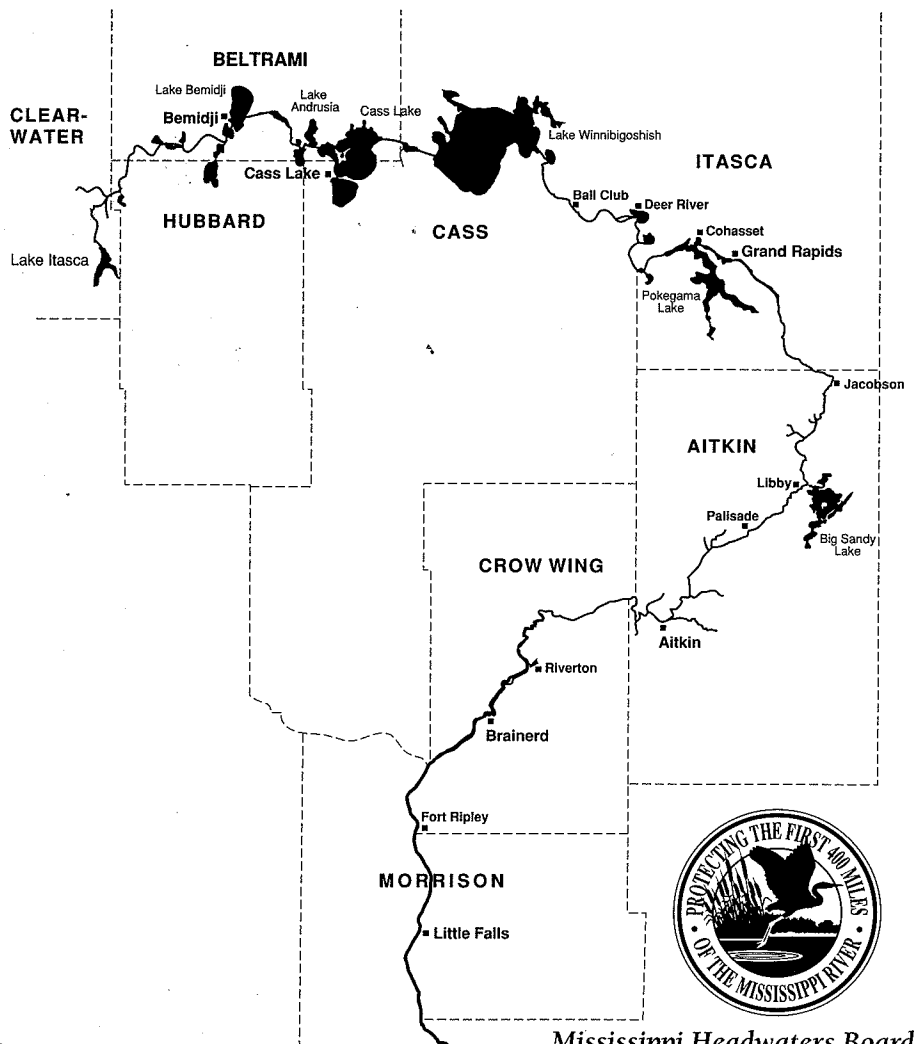
Molly MacGregor, Director
Theresa Eclov, Office Manager
Steven Dittman, Resource Specialist
Lloyd Nesseth, Lobbyist
John Valen, Attorney

1994 MHB Advisory Committee

Terry Greenside
Mark Jacobs
Gene Petersen
Tim Nelson
Don Rodgers
Tom Kozojed
Vince Cafaro
Robert Hoffman
Dick Anderson

John Alden
Tom Blackmarr
Ken Hull
Robert Greifzu
Jerry Springer
Jay Blake
Bob Verkuilen
Roger Kuklok

Roger Boatman
Steve Gorecky
Dave Hills
Dale Krystosek
Andy Kuik
Bruce Paakh
Nancy Salminen
Bill Stocker
Tom Witkowski



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