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Minnesota's quarterly newsletter of water

Minnegram

Minnegram

The Water Resources Center's quarterly newsletter focuses on water-related issues.

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Minnegram Spring 2017

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Welcome to the inaugural issue of the combined newsletter of Shore to Shore and Minnegram. The integrated quarterly newsletter is emblematic of the partnership between the Water Resources Center and the Extension Water Team. Both are committed to sound water research and programming to educate Minnesota citizens about their water resources. Shore to Shore and Minnegram are key components in communication of the work of Extension, the WRC and the Water Resources Science graduate program.

[2017 NIWR grant awardees showcase diversity of water research](#)

The USGS-funded NIWR 2017 grant competition yielded three project awardees, announced earlier this year. Funding is available to researchers (pending Congressional budget action later this year) through WRC's selection process, which chooses from submitted competent applied and peer reviewed research submissions each November. This year's grants highlight methods to mitigate nitrogen and phosphorus from drain tile, open source monitoring of turbidity in surface water and test the efficacy of buffer strips in deterring the export of organic matter and the resulting algal blooms.

[Citizen involvement makes Otter Tail River watershed a better place](#)

by Karen Terry UMN Extension Water Team

There are a lot of cool things happening in the Otter Tail River Watershed: state and local entities are in the early stages of the developing the Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS), the Otter Tail River Watershed Civic Engagement Cohort is wrapping up, and the inaugural Aqua Chautauqua will take place this summer.

[Adaptive Management for De-icing in Minnesota](#)

by Larry Baker, WRS faculty, BBE

Road salt use has increased in the U.S. by five-fold since the 1960s. Contamination from road salt has become one of the most serious urban pollutants for cities in cold climates.

[Did you know University of Minnesota Extension partners with the Water Resources Center?](#)

by Mike Schmitt, associate dean, Extension and CFANS

As part of the University of Minnesota, Extension brings University research and education that improves economic, social and environmental conditions to all of Minnesota. Both Extension and the Water Resources Center are committed to improving water quality through research and education. By partnering together, both organizations have been able to maximize expertise and engage stakeholders to achieve our mutual goals.

News

[*Minnesota Water Resources Conference Call for Abstracts*](#)

[Job posting: Associate Director, Water Resources Center](#)

[Spring 2017 Community News](#)

[Spring 2017 Student News](#)

[Spring 2017 Resources and Publications](#)

[Spring 2017 Upcoming Events](#)

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The Water Resources Center is a unit of the [College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences](#) and [University of Minnesota Extension](#).

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Spring 2017 Director's Corner

We're pleased to bring you the new Minnegram, a product of growing partnership between the Water Resources Center (WRC) and the Extension Water Resources Team (WRT). As in past Minnegram issues, content will include news about the WRC and its surrounding faculty-student community. This and all future issues will also contain feature articles previously found in the WRT's Shore to Shore newsletter: evidence-based and how-to articles by Extension educators and their expert collaborators. Our upgraded newsletter brings together two audiences with common interests and takes advantage of operational efficiencies of the WRC-WRT partnership. Minnegram arrives in your inbox quarterly and is [archived](#) online.

To welcome and orient previous readers of Shore to Shore, we have included a [brief article about the history of Minnegram](#) (spoiler alert: the name borrows from two languages and loosely translates to "water bulletin"). If you are unfamiliar with the WRC, it is a joint unit of the [College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences](#) and [University of Minnesota Extension](#), and is also one of 54 entities comprising the [National Institutes for Water Resources](#). More about us, of course, can be found on the [WRC website](#).

For past readers of Minnegram who might be unfamiliar with the WRT and Extension's work on water resources, we are pleased to include a [guest column by Associate Dean Michael Schmitt](#) about Extension's role and the partnership with the WRC. And if you visit the [WRT website](#) you can learn even more about the [educators on the team](#) and the materials they have produced for shoreland property owners, recreationists, conservation and water resource professionals, farmers, and others.



WRC Director Jeff Peterson

On a final note, I'd like to dedicate this issue of the Minnogram to my colleague Faye Sleeper. Faye is retiring this month from her current position as WRC associate director and program leader of the WRT. Forging the WRC-WRT partnership is only one of the most recent impacts Faye has made in her ten years working for the WRC and Extension. I'll be grateful for that among a long list of contributions she made here, a brief summary of which is provided in our Community News section. Chris Hansen, Minnogram editor, recently sat down for an interview with Faye to reflect on her career of public service. You can look forward to seeing an article about that conversation in our summer issue.

I hope your spring is enjoyable and is enriched by some of Minnesota's unique water resources.

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From Shore to Shore

A publication of the University of Minnesota Extension Water Resources Team

Shore to Shore began as informational piece for the Shoreland volunteer program, later expanding to include general water and environmental topics. Over the past 20 years, Shore to Shore continued to provide volunteers with monitoring information, while providing reading for a broader audience, with diverse topics including geese, ice safety and conservation drainage. Shore to Shore will continue to serve its audience within the Minnegram, with the water team contributing two features per issue. Find archived Shore to Shore issues [here](#).

Minnegram, a play on words from the Dakota word for water, minne, and the Greek word for letter, gram, has been in publication in various forms since Al Quie declared the Year of Water Awareness in 1979. What began as a reporting venue for center research, gradually became a broader publication, showcasing water resource research and programs at large in the university water community. Regular Minnegram readers can look forward to the new Shore to Shore features, as well as

continued coverage of USGS-funded research and news about Water Resources Science faculty research, WRS students, publications and upcoming events.

The combined efforts of the Shore to Shore staff and Minnegram editors will continue to highlight the research, scholarship, policy issues and events that will move Minnesota further into a future of clean water for generations to come.

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