CURE ANNUAL REPORT

CLEAN UP THE RIVER ENVIRONMENT

2012
2012 was a banner year for CURE. You can say that in our 21st year we stepped out, came of age and really began to solidify the impact that citizen led democratic action can have on a place and a watershed. With a new office in Granite Falls in the KK Berge Building (that we worked for 4 years to save and re-purpose), new staff and a host of new partners, CURE made some amazing things happen in 2012.

Here are some highlights:

1. Duane Ninneman works with citizens of Big Stone County to organize efforts to raise public awareness about Strata Corp's plans to mine and blast rare granite outcrops adjacent to the Big Stone National Wildlife refuge, a bike trail, the Minnesota river and residential homes. CURE's investment of energy combined with the contributions of many others, results in the creation of a township level moratorium that successfully slowed down Strata's plans and brought multi-state wide attention to the issue.

2. CURE's 20th Annual meeting in Montevideo draws more than 300 people. Relationships formed there set in motion a series of interactions with the DNR's Water Trails Program and Natalie Warren of the Hudson Bay Women that will begin to bear fruit in 2013. The DNR plans to hold a 50th Anniversary of the establishment of the State Water Trail in conjunction with CURE's River and History Weekend on May 17, 18 & 19, 2013 and as Natalie Warren's Wild River Academy starts up operations on the Minnesota River in May of 2013.

3. CURE holds an "Open Space" meeting in Granite Falls where the idea to create a disc golf course along the Minnesota River in downtown Granite Falls is born. Granite Falls Riverfront Revitalization (GFRR) president Steve Virnig takes charge and CURE raises funds to support the idea from a Blue Cross Blue Shield Connect for Health Challenge Grant which is used to help fund the development and signage of disc golf courses in Montevideo and Granite Falls.
4. CURE helps to organize a successful "Map Party" in the Le Sueur River Watershed attended by more than 80 people to kick off an effort to bring citizens together to talk about issues facing the water quality of the Le Sueur River Watershed -- which is responsible for a significant amount of sediment and nutrients entering the Minnesota River. CURE’s "Friendship Tour" methodology and dialogue process is successful in attracting more than 300 people to take part in pot luck discussions and farm tours over the course of the summer of 2012. From these interactions, CURE helped identify a diverse group of citizens leaders to form a Citizens Advisory Committee that will continue to meet in the winter of 2013 to devise a list of recommendations to move forward.

5. In May of 2012, CURE brings together more than 100 regional leaders for 3 days to take part in an Art of Hosting training session where skills for holding good meetings and conversations that matter are taught and shared. Going outward from this training, dozens of new types of courageous conversations are held using World Cafe, Open Space and Circle Talk meeting methodologies which in turn lead to innovative projects and stronger communities. With the support of Bush Foundation’s InCommons Initiative, CURE affirms it's reputation as a trusted convener in the region that can bring diverse viewpoints together to seek common ground.

6. In June of 2012, CURE’s summer canoe and kayak intern Isak Kvam begins his Immersions with Izak program which successfully introduces hundreds of people to the Minnesota river through weekly paddling outings. Kvam and Center for Small Towns intern Jodie Roy also play a key role in organizing and setting up for the Montevideo Fiesta Days Tri Festa Race and Celebration which draws hundreds of people to Lagoon Park to celebrate the Chippewa River.

7. CURE hosts three students from the Minneapolis College of Art and Design (MCAD) who for two weeks embed themselves in the community to explore ways that design and arts based
economic development thinking can help the communities of the Upper Minnesota River Watershed attract new businesses and creative entrepreneurs. The immersion experience leads to workshops held for retailers at the Granite Falls Chamber of Commerce and to a signage project that will be completed in 2013. The pilot exchange was deemed successful enough to merit a return visit by a new group of MCAD Students in 2013.

8. In July and August of 2012, CURE social media maven, Sarina Otaibi, records the day-by-day developments that took place with the removal of the low head dam on the Chippewa River in Lagoon Park in Montevideo. Sarina's video clips and photos drive record traffic to CURE's Facebook site, which is fast becoming a primary method for communicating CURE's work to the Next Generation. Brendan Stermer takes Sarina's footage and some of his own to piece together a short video about the dam removal project that garners hundreds of views on CURE's YouTube channel.

9. CURE contracts with artist and organizer Ashley Hanson of Place Based Productions to produce a "Walking Theater" production about the history of the Minnesota River and the community of Granite Falls for the Meander Upper Minnesota River Art Crawl’s Opening Night celebration in October 2012. More than 50 volunteers take part in producing the play which is seen by more than 500 people and which receives statewide media coverage on Minnesota Public Radio.

10. CURE's Duane Ninneman takes his Art of Hosting expertise to the issue of renewable energy policy development through a series of listening sessions and policy discussions involving students and leaders from throughout a 5 state area. Because of his facilitation skills and encyclopedic knowledge of renewable energy issues, Ninneman is asked to serve in a leadership capacity in an effort involving more than 90 non-governmental organizations and several funders to advance renewable energy policy movement building in the Upper Midwest.
11. CURE uses its convening and dialogue generating expertise to work with the Chippewa County and the Lac Qui Parle County Historical Societies to host and create a dialogue surrounding the Dakota War and the significance of the Camp Release site in Montevideo. More than 90 people take part in a commemorative walk and world cafe dialogue about the issue.

12. CURE uses dialogue to bring together opposing factions to discuss the issues surrounding the removal of the Minnesota Falls dam by Xcel Energy. In October 2012, more than 65 people take part in the dialogue which leads to greater community wide understanding of the benefits of dam removal to restore river health, address public safety and set the stage for new tourism and economic development tied to the re-exposed rapids on the river.

13. The Obama Administration’s Department of Interior staffer Rebecca Wodder pays a visit to CURE’s office in the KK Berge Building in Granite Falls to announce the establishment of the National Blueways program. She urges the Minnesota River Watershed Alliance to apply for Blueways status and applauds CURE’s leadership in building a model citizen movement over the past 20 years.

Sarina Otaibi joined the CURE staff in January of 2012. As the Program Coordinator, she helps with the planning and executing of events, documenting our activities as well as manage our social media outreach. She has a master’s degree from the University of Maryland, College Park in historic preservation. She and her partner, Tim Beckmann live in Granite Falls in an old church that they are restoring with their dog Duke.

Peg Furshong began her tenure at CURE in August of 2012. As the Associate Director she will work on fundraising, constitute management, office systems and advancing the use of technology. Prior to coming to CURE, she worked in higher education for 22 years in the field of student affairs and most recently at Southwestern Minnesota State University. She lives in Granite Falls with her husband Steve Petrich and their three children.
### Financial Overview

**CURE Financial Report 2012**

#### Income

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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Contracted Work</td>
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<td>Member Contributions</td>
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<td>Events</td>
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<td>Grants</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
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#### Expenses

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>Organizational Expenses</td>
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<td>Core Operations/Office Staff Support</td>
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<td>Building and Property</td>
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<td>Program Specific</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Operational Expenses</strong></td>
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| Designated for 2013 Programs                | $273,000|
| Cash Reserves                              | 68,000  |
| **Total Expenses**                         | **$744,000** |

In 2012 CURE emerged from several years of belt tightening that resulted in staff furloughs and program constraints. This past year, with increased member support and new commitments from foundation partners, CURE increased the range of work and program delivery on behalf of the mission. At the end of 2012 funds were captured and reserved for work in 2013 and for the first time in many years, money flowed to a cash reserve. CURE exists because of the strong support of its members and its long time foundation partners.

**CURE’s Budget for 2013 is $500,000.**

**Our member contribution goal for 2013 is $50,000.**

Details about CURE’s budget may be obtained by contacting Duane Ninneman at the CURE office.
We are grateful for our membership and the generous support you have given us in 2012.

$1000 & Above
Lowell & Cay Heilevnik
Dennis & Lori Larson
Maureen Laughlin & Duane Ninneman
Mary & Patrick Moore
Kevin & Annie Wulf

$500 to $999
Bill’s Supermarket, Montevideo
Suzanne Blue
Geoff & Janet Hathaway
Kevin Hein
Yvonne & Lee Sorenson
Jerry & Dixie Tilden
Dennis & Linda Ulrich

$250 to $499
Mary & Judi Boike
Chris & Brenda Domeier
Marv & Judi Boike
$250 to $499
Bill’s Supermarket, Montevideo

In-kind Goods, Services and Donations
Ace Hardware, Montevideo
Advocate Tribune, Granite Falls
Anonymous ***
Edie Barrett
DJ’s Sporting Goods, Montevideo
Earthine Farm, Madison
Jeremiah Ergen
Penny Ellington
Tim & Shelly Ellington
Falcon Drums, Big Stone City, SD
Kathy Farmer
Fiesta City Liquor Store, Montevideo
Joe Hauger
Chris & Steve Hettig
Bob Holzheimer Jr.
Virginia Homme
Carrie Jennings
Tom Kalahar
Arne Kildegaard
Athena Kildegaard
Bert Koosman
Korthius Jewelry
Brad Kurtz
Gary Lenz
James & Syndey Massoe
Jean Menden
Moonstone Farm, Montevideo
Patrick Moore
Duane Ninneman
Al Odenthal
Wayne Ostlie
Pastures ‘A Plenty, Kerkohoven
Jianhua Quian

Continued on the next page...
In 2012 we began a formal CURE Tributes program where you may remember a loved one who has passed on or honor someone for a life’s journey milestone (birth, birthday, graduation, wedding, anniversary, retirement, etc.) For more information about our Tributes program or to obtain envelopes please contact Peg Furshong at the CURE office.

TRIBUTES for 2012

Jay Fier & Louise Trottier
To honor the wedding of Mick & Betsy Moore
Furshong & Petrich Family
In Memory of Lisa Pena
Susan Redman & Scott Nagel
To honor the engagement of John White & Rebecca Terk

***If you believe that we have made a mistake in your giving history for 2012 please contact us so that we can resolve this issue. It is important to us that we honor all our member support. peg@cureriver.org

Water is the most critical resource issue of our lifetime and our children’s lifetime. The health of our waters is the principal measure of how we live on the land.

- Luna Leopold