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MESSAGES**

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## FMR Updates



### Farewell Betsy, welcome Lisa!

We're excited to welcome Lisa Mueller as our director of land conservation. Lisa brings more than 30 years of land protection and conservation experience. We also wish Betsy Daub, our beloved outgoing director, all the best in New Mexico.

[Meet Lisa >>](#)



### 1,500 River Guardians in 2020

We're celebrating the impact of more than 1,500 River Guardians who took action in 2020 to hold polluters of a toxic riverfront waste site accountable, to invest in critical infrastructure to ensure safe drinking water, and to protect migrating birds along the metro Mississippi flyway. Thank you!

[Here's what's in store for advocates in 2021 >>](#)



## Join our team

FMR is hiring a new Administrative Assistant & Bookkeeper as well as a Development Associate. Both applications are due in February.

[Check out the job descriptions and spread the word >>](#)



## Education intern creates curriculum connecting people and place

Elia Engberg spent eight weeks collaborating with FMR's stewardship and education team to create new curriculum resources that highlight culture and identity relationships as essential parts of environmental education.

[Find out more about Elia and their curriculum >>](#)



## MRCCA riverfront protections: You made a difference!

Minneapolis is the first city with a new ordinance to guide riverfront development and protections, and thanks to our collective advocacy, their ordinance includes provisions for migrating birds.

[Will St. Paul and the other 23 metro communities follow suit? >>](#)



## Minnesota's legislative session is underway

Read up on [our priorities](#) this year to: fully fund [Forever Green](#), protect the [Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund](#), sustain [Soil and Water Conservation Districts](#), and defend against [environmental policy rollbacks](#). Then [sign up as a River Guardian](#) to take action this session.

## **Congress clarifies future of Upper St. Anthony Falls**

Ever since it closed to navigation in 2015, the future of the Upper St. Anthony Falls lock and dam in downtown Minneapolis has been in question. Full removal is not on the table. But in the past few weeks, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Congress have issued dueling plans for the lock's future. While there is widespread local support for the ultimate outcome, we hope that the Army Corps will act quickly on Congress' direction to help create a new public space and better river access in the heart of downtown Minneapolis.

[Read more from FMR >>](#)

## **Minnesota gets a bad report card for nitrate reduction (part two)**

A recent five-year progress report from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency shows we're making very little progress on addressing one of the main sources of pollution: agricultural runoff. How do we get a better grade? We have to change the mix of what we grow on our land. In this followup, we explain why it isn't feasible to rely on incentive payments to farmers alone to move the needle on our water quality problems. And we offer an exciting solution that could improve water quality by 90% AND sustain farmers' livelihoods.

[Read more from FMR >>](#)

## **'Listen: How cities make Mississippi River water safe to drink'**

In November, we rounded up some of [our favorite explainer articles and podcasts](#) that investigate how Minnesotans get clean drinking water and what happens with our wastewater. We've got a new addition! The Star Tribune's Curious Minnesota series just released an accompanying podcast, in which host Eric Roper gives us an audio tour of the biggest water treatment facility in Minnesota, the one that preps river water for your tap.

[Read more from the Star Tribune >>](#)

## **Saving the baby AND the bathwater: New hope for a sensible Clean Water Rule**

Back in 2019, the Trump administration adopted new regulations that significantly undermine how our nation's public water supplies are protected. Now, an independent review helmed in part by Bonnie Keeler, the University of Minnesota's preeminent water economist, has found that the federal government's decision-making process was fundamentally flawed. Will the Biden administration reverse the rollbacks?

[Read more from FMR >>](#)

## **Upcoming Events**



[Sign up as a River Guardian](#) and we'll email you when important river issues arise this legislative session.

[Join us at the virtual book launch](#) of *Hudson Bay Bound: Two Women, One Dog, and Two Thousand Miles to the Arctic* by Natalie Warren on Tuesday, February 9.

[View our full events calendar >>](#)

## Conservation Corner



### FMR ecologist coauthors paper on the importance of replanting after buckthorn removal

When FMR volunteers remove buckthorn, we're making way for native plants to reestablish critical habitat. In a new research paper, following up by planting native plants seems to show another benefit: Buckthorn has a harder time making a comeback.

[Learn more about our ongoing research >>](#)

## Write to the River



## Submit your writing by February 1

In our winter photo prompt of snowcapped Pine Bend Bluffs, someone stumbled upon this beautiful river view, leaving only footprints behind. Winter offers unique opportunities along the river: quiet vistas and wildlife discovery by tracks in the snow. Tell us of your favorite winter river places and the ways you move through this season.

[Send us your prose and poems >>](#)

## Supporting FMR



## What you've made possible in the new year

Your generous donations during this challenging time have made so much possible. In the new year, we're leading a campaign for a new federal initiative to protect the Mississippi River from the headwaters to the Gulf, we'll continue fighting for equitable community development, and we'll steward thousands of acres of vital habitat.

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**Friends of the Mississippi River**

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