



# CURE ANNUAL REPORT

CLEAN UP THE RIVER ENVIRONMENT  
2012

## 2012 in Review

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.



### BOARD of DIRECTORS

**Josh Preston**, Chair

**Marvin Boike**, Maynard

**Tim Ehling**, Montevideo

**Shelly Elkington**, Montevideo

**Troy Goodnough**, Morris

**Jennifer Hoffman**, Montevideo

**Martin Moore**, Montevideo

**Tom Pauling**, Montevideo

**Jianhua Quian**, Montevideo

**Rachel Rigenhagen**, Appleton

**Don Robertson**, Sacred Heart

**Scott Tedrick**, Granite Falls

**Dennis Ulrich**, Renville

**John White**, Clara City

**Kevin Wulf**, Hancock

### STAFF

**Patrick J. Moore**, Executive Director

Patrick@cureriver.org

**Duane Ninneman**, Climate/Energy Director

Duane@cureriver.org

**Dixie Tilden**, Office Manager

Dixie@cureriver.org

**Sarina Otaibi**, Program Coordinator

Sarina@cureriver.org

**Peg Furshong**, Associate Director

Peg@cureriver.org

# IMMERSIONS WITH ISAK



From June 7 through July 26th, you could find Isak Kvam, our summer intern on the river with his "Immersion with Isak" paddling program. Nearly 300 paddlers from ages 12 and up with little or no experience were exposed to the beautiful Chippewa and Minnesota Rivers during his tenure with CURE.

Isak was also responsible for the fleet of vessels we lend and for organizing "No child left inside" events and educational programs.

Isak is a graduate from Yellow Medicine East high school and is studying Environmental Studies and Biology at Luther College in Iowa.



## 2012 in Review

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 Immersion with Isak 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



## Year in Review

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.



## Year in Review

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.



## NEWS FACES AT CURE



**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.



**Awarded at the 2012  
Annual Meeting**



## **RiverKeeper**

**Butch Halterman**

**John White**

## **Volunteer**

**Jean Menden**

## **Media**

**Jon Carlson**

**John Hickman**

## **Good Government**

**Senator Gary Kubly**

## **Good Business**

**Steve Virnig**

**Steve Lindholm**

**Granite Falls Bank**

## **Financial Overview**

### **CURE Financial Report 2012**

#### **Income**

Contracted Work	\$27,500
Member Contributions	32,500
Events	11,500
Grants	672,500
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$744,000</b>

#### **Expenses**

Staff and Interns	\$193,000
Organizational Expenses	10,000
Core Operations/Office Staff Support	39,000
Building and Property	11,000
Communications	13,000
Professional Fess	6,000
Program Specific	131,000
<b>Operational Expenses</b>	<b>\$403,000</b>

Designated for 2013 Programs	\$273,000
------------------------------	-----------

Cash Reserves	68,000
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$744,000</b>

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.

# THANK YOU

We are grateful for our  
membership and the  
generous support you  
have given us in 2012.

## \$1000 & Above

Lowell & Cay Hellervik  
Donna & Nick Krueger  
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

Marv & Judi Boike  
Chris & Brenda Domeier  
Tim & Shelly Elkington  
Kathy Farmer & Tim Lies  
Bob & Anne Hartkopf  
Jennifer Hoffman  
Virginia Homme  
Bruce Johnson  
Michael Kosowski  
Ron Kroese  
Gary Kuhn  
Dan Kurkiewicz  
Sheryl Mann  
James & Sydney Massee  
Shanai Matteson  
Dr. Brad Moseng  
Dorothy Rosemeier  
Sunny Ruthchild  
Steve Thompson  
Mary Lou Werner  
John White

## \$100 to \$249

Ace Hardware, Montevideo  
Audrey Amer &  
Richard Handeen  
Dave & Pam Ameson  
Avenues for Care, Montevideo  
Merri & Tim Bertrand  
Thomas Birkey  
Diane Borgendale  
Dennis & Deb Brandon  
Jay & Merideth Brown  
Chad Carson  
Tom & Cindy Cherven  
Daniel Conway  
Mark Dittrich  
Ansel Doll  
Debra Lee Fader  
Andrew Falk  
Annette & Kay Femholz

Brigid Fitzgerald  
Glenn Fritsche  
Peg Fushong & Steve Petrich  
Richard & Mary Fyling  
Troy & Jennifer Goodnough  
Butch & Esther Halterman, Jr.  
Richard Halterman, Sr.  
John & Marilyn Handeen  
David & Karen Halverson  
Joe Hauger  
Glen & Jackie Herfurth  
Peter L. Johnson  
Catherine Jordan & Steve Lick  
Cherri & Andy Kahmann  
Judith Kammer &  
Mark Voorhees

Arne & Athena Kildegaard  
Lynn Kolze  
Pat Kubly  
Scott & Angie Kudelka  
Brad Kurtz  
Spencer & Peggy Kvam  
Jim & Gail LaFave  
Gary Lentz  
Amanda Mattke  
Larkin McPhee  
Karen Minge  
Scott Moen  
Roger Molde  
James Moore & Char Zinda  
Montevideo Family Dentistry  
Craig & Joanie Murphy  
Richard Ness & Julie Ahlers  
Jon Panzer  
Dale & Jo Pederson  
Jianhua Qian  
Rachel Rigenhagen &  
Randy Risch  
Edward Schumann  
Ingrid Schwingler  
Don Sebring  
Richard & Julie Shrubbs  
Dave Smiglewski  
Gene & Helen Stukel  
John Tanquist & Colleen Frey  
Scott Tedrick  
Mark Ten Eyck  
Michelle Thelen  
Tom Watson  
Brian & Janine Wojtalewicz  
Greg Wyum  
Paul Wymar & Amy Bacigalupo  
Jim & Sonja Zenk

## \$50 to \$99

Keith & Anita Anderson  
Brett Arne  
Don Amosti  
Alycia Ashburn  
Eddie Barrett  
Marilyn & Tim Bayerl

Nancy Beasley  
Elizabeth Benson  
Paul & Barb Benson  
Paul Blackburn  
Ron Bolduan  
George Boody  
Chuck & Pat Brown  
Glenn & Eunice Buchanan  
Brad Burgeson  
Drew Campbell  
Fred & Doris Cogelow  
Jane & Gerald Connell  
Andrew Corrigan  
David & Patricia Craigmile  
Emily Deaver  
Martin & Janic Dessureault  
Kathy Draeger  
Steven & Jennifer Dubois  
James & Karen Falk  
Bart & Sally Finzel  
Dennis & Marj Frederickson  
Rachel & Ron Garbe  
Larry Gavin  
Mary Gillespie & Moe Otaibi  
Marcia & Nick Golden  
Granite Falls Area  
Chamber of Commerce  
Dennis & Mary Jane Grebner  
Larry Gunderson  
Joel Halbritter  
Dale Handeen  
Alice M. Hanley  
Ron Hanson  
Steve & Chris Hettig  
Anthony & Nancy Hilleren  
Nicholas Hofstad  
Mary Homan  
Douglas Holtquist  
Bob Holzheimer, Jr.  
Dan & Ruth Jahn  
Jake's Pizza of Montevideo  
Mark & Kerry Jaspersen  
Carrie Jennings  
Karyani Karyani &  
Dr. Christina Anderson  
Peter Kennedy & Teresa Clark  
Wendy & Paul Kimmer  
Cory & Erin Klumper  
Barb & Dwayne Knutsen  
Tim & Chrys Kolhei  
Bert & Doris Koosmann  
Katie Laughlin  
Ray & Mavis Lentz  
Lynn Mader & Mark Rekow  
Tom Mahoney &  
Maddy Maxeiner  
Margaret Mangan  
Margo McCreary  
June Meyerhoff & Kurt Amer  
Barbara Moore  
Ellen Moore & Rick Stermer  
Kathy & Kieran Moore  
Natasha & Matt Mortenson  
Sr. Shirley Mueller  
Lou Ann Nagel  
Brad Nawrocki  
Dean & Jeri Norduane  
Steve & Kathy O'Connell  
Dick Olson  
Bill & Connie Pauling  
Keith & Vicki Poier  
Julie & Nicole Rath  
Franz Alibert Richter  
Don & Marci Robertson  
Margaret Ross  
John & Mary Sellner

John & Kathy Skoglund  
David & Dawn Sletten  
Ken & Anna Smith  
Dave & Judy Stendahl  
Dan & Maureen Stores  
Mark & Celeste Suter  
Jessica Tatro  
Linda Taylor  
Billy & Delores Thompson  
Karen Thompson  
Ann & Bruce Tiffany  
Lyndon Torstenson  
Paul Tosto & Marta Cleaveland  
Dick Unger & Jane Nord  
Curt & Sara Vacek  
Jim & Lee Ann VanDerPol  
Steve & Linda Virnig  
Del & Shirley Wehrspann  
Jodie Wehrspann  
Tammy Wehrspann  
Robert Williamson  
Terry & John Wise  
Terry Wittnebel  
Craig Zempel

## \$30 to \$49

Anthony & Felixa Amato  
Joe & Catherine Amato  
Keith, Mary & Angie Bergo  
Amelia Bergquist  
Mary Marti Borstad  
Ronald & Harriet Burley  
Florence Dacey  
Matt Dack  
Darwin & Lori Dyce  
Tammy Edman  
Bill & Jackie Eggers  
Dan & LuAnne Fondell  
Julie Frost & Brian Nerbonne  
Steve Gardner  
Paul Gervais  
Robert Griffiths  
Lars Gustafson  
Phil Hahn  
Malena Handeen &  
Mike Jacobs  
Mark & Janet Huber  
Linda Huseby  
Glen Jacobsen  
Gene Jeseritz  
Randy Krzmarzick  
Cheryl Landgren  
Brent Larson  
Dale Lien  
James Mason  
Chuck Maynus  
Michael Moore  
David & Judy Nass  
Rodney & Noreen Neville  
Stephen O'Neil & Angela Miller  
Doug Pederson  
Terese & Jerry Perkins  
Mary Erler Peters  
Brady Russ  
John & Lila Salls  
Heather & Troy Scott  
Brian Skogen  
Jake & Cassie Suter  
Rebecca Terk  
Erik Thompson  
Penelope J. Tower  
Peter Tuohy  
Crystal Turner  
Terry VanDerPol  
Kenneth & Carrie Wamstad  
Chad & Lori Wengert

Naomi Wente  
Travis Zachman

## Foundations & Granting Partners

Blue Cross Blue Shield  
Foundation of Minnesota  
Bush Foundation  
Kresge Foundation  
Lac qui Parle Watershed Project  
Land Stewardship Project  
McKnight Foundation  
Minnesota Department of  
Agriculture  
Minnesota Historical Society  
Minnesota Pollution Control  
Agency  
Montevideo Noon Lions  
The Queenan Foundation  
RE AMP

## In-kind Goods, Services and Donations

Ace Hardware, Montevideo  
Advocate Tribune, Granite Falls  
Anonymous \*\*\*  
Eddie Barrett  
DJ's Sporting Goods, Montevideo  
Chris Domeier  
Earthrise Farm, Madison  
Jeremiah Ergen  
Penny Elkington  
Tim & Shelly Elkington  
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 Koosmann  
Korthius Jewellery  
Brad Kurtz  
Gary Lenz  
James & Sydney Massee  
Jean Menden  
Moonstone Farm, Montevideo  
Patrick Moore  
Duane Ninneman  
Al Odenthal  
Wayne Ostlie  
Pastures 'A Plenty, Kerkohoven  
Jianhua Qian  
Don Robertson  
Lee Sorenson  
Southwest Airlines  
St. James Hotel, Redwing  
Tokheim Stoneware  
True Value Hardware,  
Granite Falls  
Ann Wachtler  
Natalie Warren & Ann Raiho  
John White  
Brian Wojtalewicz

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 & Lousie 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](mailto: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*



**THE MINNESOTA RIVER:**  
FLOAT IT FISH IT FIX IT

**Clean Up the River Environment**

117 South First Street

Montevideo, Minnesota 56265

320-269-2984

[www.cureriver.org](http://www.cureriver.org)