Item 7B.
BCWMC 5-15-14

MISSISSIPPI RIVER FORUM
Friday, May 30, 2014
8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Science Museum of Minnesota—Discovery Hall
120 West Kellogg Boulevard, St. Paul, MN 55102

7:45-8:30 **Registration and Continental Breakfast**

8:30 **Welcoming Remarks**
Patrick Hamilton. Director—Global Change Initiatives, Science Museum of Minnesota.
John Anfinson. Chief of Resource Management—Mississippi National River and Recreation Area, National Park Service.
Katie Nyberg. Executive Director, Mississippi River Fund.

8:45-9:30 **The Mystery of the Cottonwoods**

Wandering along the floodplain forests within the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area, it is easy to stop and stare in wonder at the huge cottonwood trees lining the river. As the bald eagle's preferred nesting tree and a major force in reducing river bank erosion, this majestic tree is a critical component of the floodplain. In 2011, the National Park Service discovered that younger cottonwoods have not been growing at their traditional rates. After this discovery, the Mississippi River Fund and the National Park Service partnered with Minnesota GreenCorps to design and lead an experiment to help understand cottonwood regeneration and how we can help. Come learn more about the role of cottonwoods, how cities and parks are addressing their floodplain forests, and what we are doing to help them.

Maria DeLaundreau. Mississippi River Fund.

9:30-9:45 **Break**

9:45-10:30 **Bald Eagles, Sentinels for Clean Water: What Bald Eagle Nestlings Can Tell us about the Health of our Environment**

The bird lovers among us may keep track of the annual bald eagle nest counts that are conducted on the Mississippi River in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. (This year's survey found a record 48 active nests within the national park corridor!) A possibly lesser-known fact, though, is that the National Park Service researchers who lead this annual survey also collect blood samples from young bald eagles ("nestlings") to assess their levels of several environmental contaminants, including lead, mercury, PFCs, flame retardants, and several pesticides. Because eagles eat aquatic prey from a relatively local area, understanding what contaminants nestlings are exposed to helps us understand the general health of that local environment. We'll receive an update on this project's findings from the ecologist in charge of it. Come hear how our eagles—and how our river environments—are doing!

Bill Route. National Park Service, Great Lakes Inventory and Monitoring Network.

10:30-11:15 Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program: An Update

If you have attended a Mississippi River Forum event in the past, or have read a newspaper in Minnesota at some point in the past few years, odds are you know that Minnesota's agriculture and water quality are intimately connected. However, agriculture's water pollution is generally not addressed as directly as pollution from other sources (like cities or industrial uses) by water regulations. In order to increase the number of farmers voluntarily using water-friendly techniques, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture developed the Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program. This program works with producers to implement and maintain approved farm management practices, and in turn assures certified producers that they will not be subject to new water quality regulations during the period of certification. The program has "gone live" in four pilot areas across the state in the past year. Learn how the program is being received by farmers, how sign-ups are going, and what we're learning about how the program may address concerns around agriculture and water.

Peter Gillitzer and Bill Fitzgerald. MN Department of Agriculture.

11:15-11:45 Break

11:45-12:30 Keynote Address: Science and Policy in a Modern World: Chaos or Order?
Michael Osterholm, UMN, Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy

Dr. Michael Osterholm is director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy (CIDRAP) at the University of Minnesota, where he also serves as a professor in the Division of Environmental Health Sciences (School of Public Health), a professor in the Technological Leadership Institute (College of Science and Engineering), and an adjunct professor in the Medical School. He is a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences and the Council of Foreign Relations. Before joining the University, Dr. Osterholm served for 24 years in various roles at the Minnesota Department of Health, the last 15 as state epidemiologist.

Dr. Osterholm has led numerous investigations of outbreaks of international importance, including foodborne diseases, the association of tampons and toxic shock syndrome (TSS), the transmission of hepatitis B in healthcare settings, and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection in healthcare workers. He has been an international leader regarding preparedness for an influenza pandemic, as well as on the use of biological agents as catastrophic weapons targeting civilian populations.

We are honored that Dr. Osterholm will be with us to discuss the intersection of science and policy, using the recent triclosan legislative debate as a case study.

12:30 Closing Remarks
Lark Weller. Water Quality Coordinator, Mississippi National River and Recreation Area.

This event has been brought to you by the National Park Service,
with support from the Mississippi River Fund and the McKnight Foundation.
Thank you to the Science Museum of Minnesota for hosting today's event.