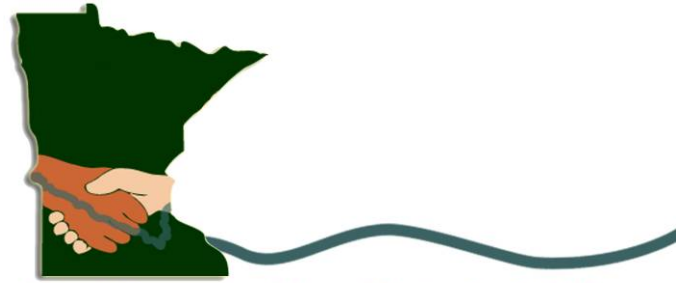


# THE MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED,

*Be part of the process for picking the 2009 "Clean Up The Minnesota River" issue at the next Minnesota River Watershed Alliance meeting on January 20<sup>th</sup> - Tuesday evening!*

*We are excited about all the possibilities to improve this valuable resource and for the passage of the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment.*



**The Minnesota River Watershed Alliance**

*When: Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>*

*Time: 6 p.m. for a social hour and food*

*7 p.m. the formal meeting*

*Where: Hutchinson Event Center*

The Hutchinson Event Center is located at 1005 Highway 15 South Plaza 15 on the south edge of the city (see attached map).

Your input is needed!

Join the effort to make a difference in the Minnesota River Watershed. Celebrate recent accomplishments, make friends with your watershed neighbors, engage in action planning for the future.

The Minnesota River Watershed Alliance (Watershed Alliance) is a Volunteer, Active, Action-Oriented Group of Watershed Advocates. **Participation is open** to Every Citizen, Landowner, Organization and Agency in the Minnesota River Watershed.



*Paddling the Minnesota River on October 30th*

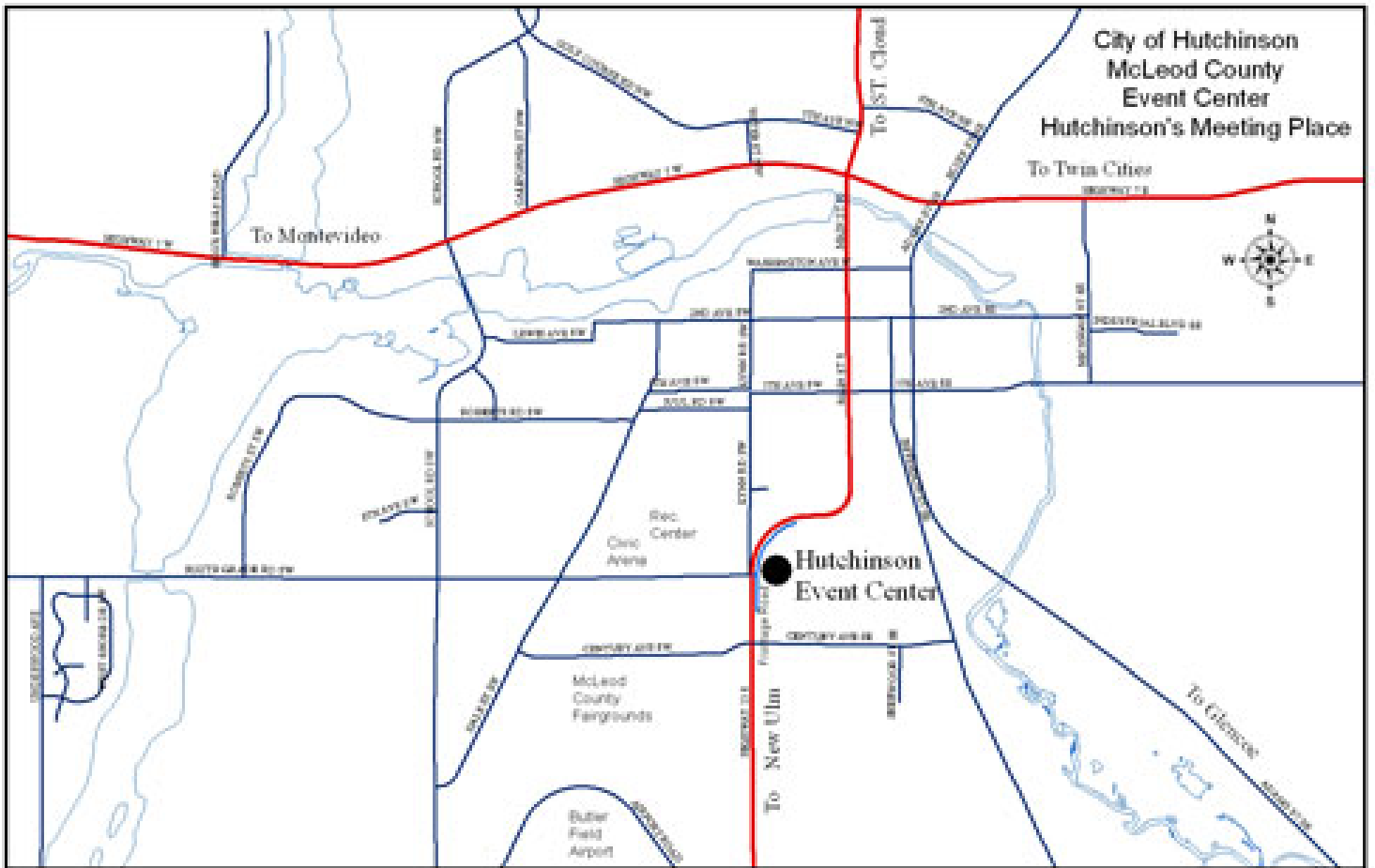
## **Potential "Clean Up the Minnesota River" issues for 2009:**

- An event focus with nontraditional constituents,
- Produce a TV documentary on the MN River incorporating aerial photography,
- MN River Friendly Label and MN River Paddle Patch / Decal Program,
- Cross fertilization between Lake Pepin and MN River groups,
- Backyard drainage awareness campaign,

Social hour begins at 6 p.m. with food, drink and time to network with others working, living and playing in the Minnesota River Watershed. The meeting will start right at 7 o'clock and we strive to wrap up the formal discussion by 9 p.m.

*We hope to see you at the January 20<sup>th</sup> meeting and are excited about the future of the Minnesota River Watershed. If you have any questions please contact Scott Kudelka at 507-389-2304 or [scott.kudelka@mnsu.edu](mailto:scott.kudelka@mnsu.edu).*

Check out the Alliance's blog web site at:  
<http://mail.mnsu.edu/mailman/listinfo/mrwa>



## NEWS OBITUARIES

# Michael Groh, a '60s activist who remained an activist

- A longtime consultant to nonprofits, he excelled at helping leaders work through problems, said a colleague.

By BEN COHEN  
[bchoen@startribune.com](mailto:bchoen@startribune.com)

As a seminary student, Michael Groh arranged football games between seminarians and prison inmates. Later, he helped found nonprofit groups.

"He was all about making a positive difference in the world," said his daughter, Alice Groh of Minneapolis.

"He had a very strong sense of social justice," she said. "He was a '60s activist who continued to be an activist his whole life."

Groh, 65, a longtime consultant to nonprofits, died of brain cancer Oct. 30 in his Minneapolis home.

He grew up in New Albany, Ind., and received a bachelor's degree in literature in 1965 from Hanover College in Indiana, where he was a tight end on the football team.

Groh moved to the Twin Cities to earn a master's degree in theology from United Theological Seminary in New Brighton in 1969.

He arranged a half dozen football games over two seasons between seminarians and inmates of the prison in Stillwater.

The seminarians won most of the games.

In the late 1960s and early '70s, he cofounded and led Youth Emergency Services in Minneapolis, worked for the Amherst H. Wilder Foundation and the University of Minnesota.

Groh also cofounded the former Phase Five Associates, which specialized in devising new methods for training community leaders. Living and working out of a van, he took community organization skills to lower income neighborhoods in Kansas, helping young people fight drug addiction.

He figured that if the community could come together, it could better watch over at risk children.

Groh was adept at training leaders of nonprofits, strategic planning and building trust, said his daughter.

During his career, he had worked with 500 groups in North America, Eastern Europe and the Balkans, helping organizations such as food shelves, environmental groups and others in nations with emerging democracies.

Randall Bachman of St. Paul, a vice president for Children's Home Society & Family Services in St. Paul, said he was an "effective and visionary collaborator and leader."

"He was one of the most

meaningful persons in my life," said Bachman.

In the 1990s, when Bachman was on the school board in Rochester, Minn., the board arranged for a bonding referendum. The public hearings had been held, and the issue was on the ballot. Then, IBM announced a large layoff, sending a "shockwave through the community," said Bachman.

Board members wrung their hands. Groh gave them simple advice. "Just pull it" from the ballot and try again later, he said.

"No one thought of that," and down the road, the money was found in better economic times, Bachman said.

"He was a master at helping leaders work through daunting challenges and come up with solutions," said Bachman.

When not working, Groh played basketball and led wilderness trips in the American West.

In addition to Alicia, he is survived by his wife, Jane of Minneapolis; son, Aaron of Minneapolis; and a brother Ken of Floyds Knobs, Ind.

The Watershed Alliance was fortunate to have been able to use Michael as a facilitator for our quarterly meetings. He did a great job of making sure everyone was heard and keeping us on time. Michael will be missed.