



Winnebago Waterways Recovery

Winnebago Waterways Steering Team Meeting

Date: Friday, March 13, 2020

Time: 10:00am to 11:00am

Location: Conference Call (join on your computer - details provided below)

Facilitator: Korin Doering, Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance, korin@fwwa.org, (920) 851-0948



Conference Call NOTES:

Introductions

Attendees: Dani Santry, Paul Tollard, Todd Wahler, Ted Johnson, Chad Casper, Alan Weir, Keith Marquardt, Kendall Kamke

Summary of Executive Committee Meeting

- Executive Committee voted to approve submission of LMP to WDNR
- Next meeting will be schedule based on need

LMP Project Updates

Status of LMP

- Submitted to WDNR on 3/10/2020
 - Anticipate a few iterations as we work with DNR to make changes based on their recommendations
 - Webpage has been updated and is available to the public
 - Suggestions from Steering Team:
 - Add graphical links
 - Create a story map of LMP
 - Synopsis – one or two paragraphs
 - How long it has been going on
 - Who is involved
 - Major concerns
 - Working on non-critical appendices
- In the process of scheduling recreation focus group
 - Meet with Diane at Menasha marina to invite her to be part of the process
- Working on watershed management
- Will begin planning series of public meetings (open house style town hall meetings)
 - Mid to late June – 3 locations
 - Winneconne or Fremont
 - FDL
 - Harrison/Menasha
- TO DO: write and distribute press release
 - 1st press release: focus on online availability – early April

- 2nd press release: focus on public meetings – early June
- WPR? Call in and talk show

Implementation Updates

Funding updates

- Submitted proposal to NRDA for habitat/erosion project on north end of Lake Poygan
- Received funding for project to evaluate effectiveness of breakwalls (in partnership with UW-O)
 - Working to finalize contract with UW-O; plan to meet soon to set season monitoring schedule
 - UW-O and Fox-Wolf will do WQ
 - WDNR will do fisheries and aquatic plants
 - 2020-2023

Outreach and education

- Revamping website with “recovery” messaging instead of planning
- Developing outreach materials

Habitat project scoring criteria and process – improving drafts with help of partners

Winnebago Waterways Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program

- Testing new equipment
- Working with a volunteer to work out bugs and develop simple guide for volunteers
- Plan to attend train the trainer events for WAV and CLMN
- Set-up with UW-Oshkosh ERIC Labs
 - Providing interns to cover several sampling locations
 - Purchased their own equipment
- Timeline
 - Finalize FDL location (site visit to ensure access and safety)
 - Draft manual for volunteers
 - Attend trainings
 - Develop training materials specific to WWP needs
 - Schedule and hold trainings for volunteers and interns
 - Begin sampling in May, 2020

Brief updates from around the system

WDNR

- Terrell’s Island and Samers Bay
 - Public meetings held on 3/11/2020 and 3/12/2020
 - Majority supported plans to restore Terrell’s Island and build breakwall to restore north end of Samers Bay using rock removed from Terrell’s.
 - Presentations were given by Chad Casper (Winnebago County) and Adam Nickel (WDNR)
 - Project is funded by:
 - NRDA
 - BDMCC
 - Winnebago County
 - Additional funds are needed – grant opportunities being pursued
- Fisheries
 - Nets in the water in LLBDM for survey
 - Includes N. pike study (NRDA project to study movement)
 - Walleye run is starting
- Upper Fox Wolf TMDL

- Approved by EPA
- Press release to be distributed soon
- Website is updated
- New employee
 - Watershed restoration coordinator

FDL County

- Working on large-scale targeted runoff management grant for stream bank in Pipe
 - At least a mile of stream bank
 - Anticipate submitting application for funding in mid-April
- Several projects planned for 2020
- Projects not completed last year are on the schedule for this year (due to weather conditions)

Calumet County

- Will be submitted large-scale TRM grant for Manitowoc watershed
- Sent out over 1000 flyers to private well owners (including Stockbridge)
 - Residents can pick up test kits in April
 - *Send Dani file for handout for LMP*

Winnebago County

- Begin working on design on Samers Bay and Terrell's Island
 - Funding for entire project is looking good
- Goal: get the project out to bid this summer
- Poygan Breakwall to begin in June (Phase 2)
 - Winnebago County has to oversee construction
- Backlog of projects from 2019 (due to weather)
 - RFPs sent out
 - Working on design
- Land and Water Plan – rough draft for 10-year update will be sent out to DNR and DATCP
 - Will present in August in Madison
- Breakwall project in Winneconne completed
 - Posted to Facebook

Waushara County

- Monday – heading back to court with local farmer
 - In violation with NR151 – manure storage is running off to culvert and then discharging to waters of the state
 - Judge requiring manure storage plan
 - If plan is not developed, cattle may be confiscated
 - WC offered to do the plan; offered financial assistance; property owner has refused
- Round of private well water testing in Central Sands
- Central Sands County Collaborative
 - Waiting to see what is going to happen with 14 new bills that were introduced in Senate
 - Were approved by Assembly
 - Will impact funding

LWQIA

- Last weekend – March 7th
 - Exhibited at FDL County agriculture showcase
 - Over 150 people
 - Talked about stormwater program and LMP
- May 16th – master gardener show in FDL
- Walleye Weekend - *send Alan copy of LMP handout*

Fox-Wolf

- Watershed Conference
 - Fox-Wolf held two-day conference last week
 - Chad Casper (Winnebago County) and Korin (Fox-Wolf) presented on the importance of reducing internal nutrient loading and how breakwalls are an effective tool to restore aquatic plants
- Watershed Cleanup
 - May 2nd, 2020
 - Over 60+ sites to choose from
 - Registration is OPEN: <https://secure.qgiv.com/event/fwap2p/>
 - Last year, Dani, Korin, Jessica, and Alan participated



Photo of watershed cleanup volunteers at High Cliff State Park in 2019

Upcoming Trainings, Workshops, Conferences

Please share information on any upcoming events that may be of interest including trainings, workshops, webinars, conferences, etc.

- **WEBINAR: The Role of Wetlands in Watersheds**
 - **Monday, March 16, Noon-12:50 p.m.**
 - Contrary to popular belief, wetlands might not always be wet above ground. There are different types of wetlands, and they serve many important purposes to our Wisconsin landscapes. Get the real definition of a wetland, and learn how solving problems upstream is key to solving problems downstream. Erin and Tracy will share real examples of wetlands working in Wisconsin watersheds.
 - Register at <http://www.uwdiscoveryfarms.org/news-and-events/events/mondays-in-march-unmasking-misconceptions,-webina>
- **WEBINAR: Agricultural Conservation Planning Framework (ACPF)**
 - **Tuesday, March 17th at 11AM CT**

- Attention Wisconsin watershed coordinators and planners, county conservation staff, and NRCS field staff! The ACPF team is hosting an informational webinar about ACPF
- The webinar will review what the Agricultural Conservation Planning Framework is, how it works, and how it can help you determine conservation solutions at the field scale, engage diverse stakeholders in the watershed planning process, and determine which sub-watershed to focus on and which landowners to engage. The webinar will feature staff from the Outagamie County Land Conservation Department who will discuss their use of the ACPF and how it complements their use of the EVAAL toolset.
- Register for this webinar at <https://acpf4watersheds.org/upcoming-events/>
- **WEBINAR: NRDA - Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan**
 - The Fox River Trustees are releasing a Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan this spring to guide the collection of monitoring and reporting information across Fox River NRDA restoration projects. More details will be explained on upcoming partner webinars.
 - Save the Date for these webinars on **Wednesday, March 25 from 10-11 a.m.** OR **Wednesday, April 1st from 10:30-11:30 a.m.**
 - Both webinars will contain the same content. Two options are being offered to accommodate busy schedules. Webinar and conference line information will be sent several weeks prior to the call.
 - Contact Korin for email info for NRDA
- **WEBINAR: MYTHBUSTERS – Grazing Cover Crops with Meghan Filbert (Practical Farmers of Iowa)**
 - Date: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 2:00-3:00 PM CT
 - This webinar will address common myths about grazing cover crops. We will discuss information from recent grazing cover crop field trials and the experiences of farmers using the practice. Does grazing cover crops cause soil compaction? Can you terminate cover crops with livestock impact? Tune in to find out!
 - Register: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1514246719467185675>
- **WEBINAR: Grazing Cover Crops for Resilience – How Grazing Cover Crops Builds Resilience through Stimulating Soil Biology**
 - Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 2:00-3:00 PM CT
 - Join Pasture Project and Dr. Kris Nichols for a webinar on cover crops and grazing as ways to stimulate carbon flow to soil biology, and how using these practices can build resilience to weather, pest and disease issues, and increase overall profitability.
 - Register here: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5598319988985907981>

Highly recommend being added to the WI Land + Water SITCOM Conservation Training E-newsletter

Completed lake management planning drafts are now available online for the public to review and comment.
Link to webpage: <https://fwwa.org/lake-management-planning-2>