



Winnebago Waterways Recovery

Winnebago Waterways Steering Team Meeting

Date: Friday, April 17th, 2020

Time: 10:00am to 12:00pm

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, Alan Weir, Chad Casper, Paul Tollard, Erin Gerred, Ted Johnson, Keith Marquardt

Steering Team Discussion

Transition to Implementation

Meeting frequency:

- Going forward, meet quarterly and then call additional meetings as needed
 - *Korin will send meeting schedule*

Members at large?

- Do we want to recruit additional members at large?
 - 3 members at large
 - What skills/experience/knowledge are we looking for?
 - Strong interest in contributing and participating
 - 1-year term; terms can be renewed (January to January)
 - Q3 – Determine continuation of members before recruiting, begin recruiting for open positions
 - Recruit from implementation/focus groups
 - Application Deadline by end of Q3
 - Q4 – review applications
 - Q1 – add new members

Executive Committee Meetings

- As needed; at least annual to provide updates

Lake Management Plan Updates

ADD RECOMMENDATION/goal to the lake plan:

The system needs to be mapped and designated for critical habitat (critical habitat assessment/map/officially entered into WDNR system as critical)

- Ted will send a link to critical habitat program
- Add to APM and Habitat sections of the LMP

Other updates:

- StoryMap (ESRI)
 - Working on StoryMap; hope to make progress in the next few weeks
- Watershed Management Plan
 - In the works; COVID-19 has caused it to be pushed back
- Public Meetings: being pushed back due to COVID-19
- Press releases: pushed back
- Other media (WPR, etc.): pushed back
- Review and Approval of plan–
 - **GOAL: Approved by County Boards by end of September, 2020**

Mid-June	Receive comments from WDNR Incorporate comment and send revisions Finalize abbreviated version of the LMP
July	Executive Committee meeting --request to be added to September County Board agendas Hold public meetings
Mid-July	Send abbreviated LMP to LCC's for meeting packets
August	Agenda item for LCC review of LMP; request approval; request resolution for county board meeting Send abbreviated plan to county boards to be included in meeting packets
September	County Board presentations County boards vote to approve/adopt

***Watershed Management plan will likely operate on a different timeline than the LMP*

How does timeline fit with new NR 193 grant timeline?

- May 1 – eligibility
- Sept 1 – intent to apply
- Nov 1 – application deadline
 - May need to approve sections, if needed
 - Ted will check on requirement for full plan approval to be eligible for

County approval – sense of urgency to receive county board approval to have closure of the process

- County Board
 - Korin – give short presentation
 - Fox-Wolf – send short handout about the LMP to be included in County Board packets prior to their meeting and presentation
 - Ask – Resolution from LCC for County Board to Formally approve/adopt

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>

LMP Implementation Updates

Water Quality Monitoring Program: program is being set-up; training materials assemblies. Hope to get started in May although it is possible monitoring won't begin until June. Working with UW-Oshkosh ERIC Lab and volunteers.

Watershed Hydrology Study

- We invited Army Corps to work with us

- Chicago District excited to partner; shared funding opportunities
- During initial meeting, we brought up the leadership
- Army Corps is exploring the possibility of doing the study under existing authorization; they are working internally to learn more about authorization.

Breakwall Evaluation Study

- Funding received to complete study in partnership with UW-Oshkosh and WDNR.
- <https://fwwa.org/2020/04/02/evaluating-the-effectiveness-of-breakwall-restoration-projects-in-the-winnebago-pool-lakes/>

Terrell's Island and Samer's Bay Restoration – Update from WDNR

- Funding: We now have \$1.2 million funding secured, with \$200,000 pending with GLFWRA grants. If the full \$1.4 million is secured, we should have the funding to complete the full project including the Terrell Island breakwall and interior island removal and building the full Samers Bay project.
 - WDNR - \$200,000 secured
 - NRDA - \$509,000 secured
 - BDMCC - \$25,000 secured
 - Winnebago County LWCD - \$20,000 secured
 - Wisconsin Habitat Partnership Grant - \$446,000 secured
 - Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act - \$100,000-\$200,000, made it through pre-proposal rounds and have submitted a full proposal. Funding likely.
 - DNR Lakes Protection - \$200,000 application submitted
 - Sustain Our Great Lakes Grant - \$500,000, did not make it through pre-proposal rounds
- Next steps in order for construction to begin in the winter of 2020/2021:
 - -Full design of the Samers Bay breakwall and refining Terrell Island breakwall removal, Chad plans to begin this now that we have moved through the public input process
 - 11 breakwalls for Samer's Bay; just under 6,000 feet.
 - 2200 feet removed from Terrell's Island
 - -Draft MOU between agencies and organizations that are involved with the project, will begin as soon as we get legal review input back regarding breakwall ownership, trail liability, etc..
 - -Project bidding
 - -Project permitting
 - -Summer/fall pre-data collection
- Learn more about the project here: <https://fwwa.org/2020/04/02/terrells-island-and-samers-bay-habitat-restoration-project/>

AIS Efforts

- *Winnebago Waterways Program has expanded under a new pilot cooperative agreement to include Brown and Outagamie counties.*
- Projects that are in the works include: Adopt-a-launch, CBCW, and more.
- Adopt-a-launch announcement: <https://fwwa.org/2020/04/14/adopt-a-launch-program-kicks-off-at-fox-wolf/>
- Expansion of AIS program: <https://fwwa.org/2020/04/13/winnebago-waterways-ais-program-expands/>

Pipe Creek GLRI

\$747,855 in GLRI funding awarded to Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance (Wisconsin) – Manure Management

The Fox Wolf Watershed Alliance partnered with Fond du Lac County to implement enhanced nutrient management on 450 acres in the Pipe Creek watershed. The project will work with farmers to overcome barriers to adoption of

practices including cover crop and no-till. The project will result in a reduction of 1,314 lbs. of phosphorus to the Lower Fox River and Green Bay.

“We are excited to partner with EPA to advance agriculture conservation in a watershed that drains directly into Lake Winnebago, Wisconsin's largest inland lake,” said Jessica Schultz, executive director of the Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance. “The Fond du Lac County Land and Water Conservation Department has been working with farmers in this area to implement a 9 Key Element plan. Low disturbance manure management will need to be incorporated into a cover crop no-till system to reduce runoff and meet water quality goals. This way of farming is a major change for the majority of the farmers in the watershed. Having this type of cost share support and available conservation staff to help farmers transition will help ensure water quality goals are achieved while maintaining a viable agricultural community.”

The information above was copied from and EPA press release. An official press release will be sent out by Fox-Wolf soon to local news outlets.

WDNR Surface Water Grant Program Updates (NR 193)

Surface water grants are changing this year. Be sure to check out NR 193 draft guidance.

- May 1 – eligibility
- Sept 1 – intent to apply in writing; set up a meeting with Ted prior to deadline
 - *Required for eligibility for grant*
- Nov 1 – application deadline
- Link to WDNR NR 193 webpage: <https://dnr.wi.gov/Aid/nr193.html>

Sunset Bay – APM

- Forming an association
- Working to develop plan; need to sign contract with Fox-Wolf for work
- Minimize impact on native vegetation while allowing for use for navigation

Brief updates from around the system

Updates from Winnebago, Calumet, Fond du Lac, and Waushara Counties as well as WI DNR, LWQIA, and Fox-Wolf. Updates from other organizations or agencies are welcome as well.

Fox-Wolf – cleanup postponed until August

LWQIA:

- March 7th – Agricultural showcase – over 100 contacts at LWQIA booth; emphasized adopt-a-storm drain in City of FDL
- Master Gardener’s show was cancelled
- Unsure about Walleye Weekend

WDNR:

- High water; complaints from seepage lakes about high water
- Once meetings resume, WDNR will be meeting with counties about TMDL
 - TMDL will be split into three sections; Winnebago Waterways Area will include the lakes
- Requests for healthy lakes projects in the system;

Calumet:

- Moved forward with CBCW interviews; will likely be offering a position today; otherwise sit and hold until activities can continue

- Working with Lakeshore Natural Resources Partnership and LISMA group on phragmites and Japanese knotweed control group
 - Submitted grant application in February
 - Information was distributed in LWCD newsletter
 - Received big response from property owners; additional areas mapped as a result
 - One year of control
 - Two years of follow-up spot treatment
- Well water testing is postponed due to COVID-19
- Contractors are ready to go so technicians are busy getting designs drafted

Fond du Lac

- Busy getting projects started; contractors are ready to go
- Clean Sweep was scheduled for later May – will likely get pushed to October/November
- Tree weep next week – still taking place
- Large-scale TRM grant application being developed for stream bank stabilization in Pipe Creek
- Two new staff: Brad and Sage

Winnebago

- Tours/field days/etc cancelled due to COVID-19
- Field season is coming up
- Working to get bids out; hearing back from contractors
- Clark's Bay Breakwall – need to see how it settled (winter construction occurred on the ice)
- Lake Poygan Breakwall – planned to start in June; gearing up; will be built by barge (~2,000 ft)
- Land and water plan – incorporating comments from DNR; will go to committee in May; present in August
- MDV funds – will be doing walk-throughs to find landowners to participate (targeting critical sites)

Upcoming Events, Workshops, Trainings, etc.

***Highly recommend signing up for the WI Land + Water SITCOM Conservation Training Monthly E-newsletter**
Korin will send Ted and Alan info on e-newsletter*

UW-Oshkosh Earth Week (April 20-25): <https://uwosh.edu/sirt/events/earth-week/>

Nelson Institute Virtual 2020 Earth Day Conference (April 20th): <https://earthday.nelson.wisc.edu/>

Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin: Virtual Field Trips

<https://mailchi.mp/wisconservation.org/virtual-field-trips-kestrel-banding-april-17?e=625635a486>

How to Lead and Work Through Uncertainty

Tuesday, April 21

1:00-1:45 p.m.; Online

Government employees are often asked to lead and work in times of great uncertainty. Whether through pandemics, natural disasters, administrative changes or budget disputes, federal, state, and local government employees are tasked with mission-critical work during volatile and unstable times. It's during these times of upheaval that the work government employees do on a daily basis is even more critical. How can government employees lead, work, and even thrive during crisis?

Register online at <https://go.govloop.com/leading-through-uncertainty.html>

Swamp, Bog, or Fen? An Introduction to Wetland Types of Wisconsin

Friday, April 24

10:30 a.m.; Online

Wetland conservation, management, and research in Wisconsin are predicated on an understanding of the different types of wetlands that occur in the state. While many experienced practitioners have a strong working knowledge of wetland communities, others who are newer to the field may be less familiar with them. Join WDNR Ecologist Ryan O'Connor for a brief introduction to the wetland natural communities of Wisconsin, including key ecological and vegetative characteristics of each community, information about each community's distribution in the state, tips for how to know what type of wetland you are in, and suggestions of helpful resources for deeper learning. Ryan will also discuss some of the different classification systems used by professionals in our region.

Register at <https://wisconsinwetlands.org/wetland-coffee-break/>

Developing a County Streambank Easement Program: A Roadmap for Landowners and Counties

Wednesday, April 29

9:00-10:00 a.m.; Online

Many Wisconsin counties have developed strong county-level programs for public fishing easements along their streams. A well-designed easement program can benefit landowners and the public while allowing watershed restoration projects to take place. What are the costs and benefits? How does it affect landowners, both farmers and nonfarmers? What steps can counties take to develop their own programs? Join John (Duke) Welter from Trout Unlimited to find out! Check out

<https://wisconsinlandwater.org/training/statewide-training-events>

A Framework for Climate-Smart Restoration

Wednesday, May 6

Noon-1:00 p.m.; Online

Ecological restoration efforts are being implemented in the context of a rapidly changing climate, which poses a new set of challenges and uncertainty. Climate-smart restoration is the process of enhancing ecological function of degraded, damaged, or destroyed areas in a manner that makes them resilient to the consequences of climate change. The presentation will provide an overview of Point Blue's climate-smart restoration framework and demonstrate how it can be used to inform planning and design for various restoration projects, drawing on examples from various riparian and wetland systems in California.

Register at <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/8885742108734905611>

Natural Processes for the Restoration of Drastically Disturbed Sites

Wednesday, May 6, 2:00-3:00 p.m.; Online

Join Dave Polster as he discusses the restoration of drastically disturbed sites using natural processes. Learn how we can take advantage of processes that have developed over millions of years to aid in the restoration of difficult-to-restore sites. How can we develop restoration practices that work with the natural world?

Register at <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5066846855016888078>

Hemp Farm Accelerator

Tuesday, May 19

Noon-2:00 p.m.; Online

This webinar will feature Doug Fine (regenerative hemp farmer and author), Noel Garcia (certified crop advisor, TPS Lab), Edgar Winters (CEO, Winterfoxfarms), and Sarah Cotterill (CEO, Lineage Hemp) who will provide tools for how to choose hemp seeds, manage soils for hemp production, and identify quality markets for hemp in a quick and impactful webinar.

Register at <https://www.acresusa.com/pages/hemp-farm-accelerator-webinar>

Groundwater and Well Construction 101

Wednesday, May 20

1:00-2:30 p.m.; Online

In this webinar, you'll learn about how water moves through the ground to your well and how well construction can increase contamination vulnerability. Additional questions that may be answered include:

- Types of wells and well construction
- The basic components of a well system
- Water treatment options

Register at <http://privatewellclass.org/construction-webinar>