

5th Wisconsin River Water Quality Improvement Symposium

Making Connections for Clean Water

March 19, 2015

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Dreyfus University Center, Alumni Room

Moderator: Dr. Paul McGinley, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

- 9:00 **Welcome** – Dr. Brian Sloss, Associate Dean of Outreach/Extension, College of Natural Resources, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
- 9:10 ***Finding Common Ground: 25th Anniversary of Lower Wisconsin Riverway***
Mark Cupp, Executive Director, Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board
- 9:50 ***Wisconsin River Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Updates and Timeline***
Ann Hirekatur, Project Manager, Wisconsin River Basin Water Quality Improvement Project, WDNR
- 10:35 **Break**
- 11:00 **Morning Breakout Session (choose one)**
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- A. *Understanding Wisconsin River Basin Reservoirs: An overview of phosphorus, sediment, algae, fish, and AIS***
Scott Provost, Water Resources Management Specialist, WDNR
- B. *Wisconsin River Basin Modeling: Status Updates and Technological Innovations used in Water Quality Modeling***
Aaron Ruesch, GIS Analyst/Developer, WDNR
- C. *Partnerships in Adaptive Management and Phosphorus Trading***
Mike Vollrath, NR Basin Supervisor, WDNR
Bob Micheel, County Conservationist, Monroe County Land Conservation Dept.
Dave Sauer, Cedar Corporation
- 12:15 **Lunch**



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1:15

Afternoon Breakout Session (choose one)

D. Adaptive Management and Phosphorus Trading: The Great Phosphorus Compliance Adventure

Amanda Minks, Water Resources Management Specialist, WDNR

E. Understanding our next steps – TMDL Implementation: Learning from Successes in the Red Cedar River Watershed

Dan Prestebak, County Conservationist, Dunn County Land and Water Conservation Division

Robert Walter, Chairman of the Dunn County Planning, Resources & Development Committee

Amanda Hanson, Conservation Planner, Dunn County Land and Water Conservation Division

F. It's All About the People: Using Social Science to Begin a Community Discussion

Dr. Aaron Thompson, Center for Land Use Education, UW-Stevens Point

2:30

Break

2:40

Building Community Capacity

Buzz Sorge, Program and Policy Analyst, WDNR

2:55

Regional Group Discussion

3:25

Closing – Mark Cupp



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Morning Breakout Session (choose one)

Understanding Wisconsin River Basin Reservoirs: An overview of phosphorus, habitat, algae, fish, and AIS

The state of Wisconsin is rich in water resources that make up the foundation of our economy, environment and quality of life. We are facing a growing number of water quality concerns as well as buzz words that can be challenging to keep up with. This session will get you up to speed on factors that are impacting water quality in Wisconsin River basin reservoirs, such as nutrient runoff, aquatic invasive species, habitat and algae blooms. Learn how to take a holistic look at these water quality issues, why they are of concern, and how they impact the health of water ecosystems, wildlife, and people.

Presenter: Scott Provost, Water Resources Management Specialist, WDNR

Wisconsin River Basin Modeling: Status Update and Technological Innovations used in Water Quality Modeling

The Wisconsin River is currently undergoing a computer modeling effort to simulate (1) upland loading and transport of sediment and nutrient loads, and (2) in-reservoir or in-lake process. The modeling effort is a work in progress during TMDL development so, while no final results will be presented, this session will provide a progress update on SWAT, Urban, and Bathtub modeling for the Wisconsin River TMDL. In addition, this talk will focus on recent technological advances that have allowed water quality modelers to better simulate landscape processes at high spatial and temporal resolution. The result is more data to better represent water quality processes and less time spent collecting it.

Presenter: Aaron Ruesch, GIS Analyst/Developer, WDNR

Partnerships in Adaptive Management and Phosphorus Trading

Adaptive management (AM) and water quality trading (WQT) are two options that facilities can use to help them comply with discharge permit limits. In order to be successful, these projects depend on partnerships between different watershed groups. During this session, you will hear from panelists that have been working on a WQT project in Sparta, WI. Panelists will talk about how they became involved with the project, how they formed partnerships with other groups, and describe how the project has changed over time and how they see it progressing in the future.

Presenters: Mike Vollrath, NR Basin Supervisor, WDNR, Bob Micheel, County Conservationist, Monroe County Land Conservation Dept., Dave Sauer, Cedar Corporation



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Afternoon Breakout Session (choose one)

Adaptive management and Water Quality Trading - The great phosphorus compliance adventure

This “choose your own adventure” presentation dives in-depth into the technical details of phosphorus compliance options, including adaptive management (AM) and water quality trading (WQT). Several hypothetical case studies will help permit holders better understand the differences between AM and WQT and how to determine which compliance option is most cost effective for their facility.

Presenter: Amanda Minks, Water Resources Management Specialist, WDNR

Understanding our next step - TMDL implementation. Learning from successes in the Red Cedar River Watershed

The Red Cedar River watershed is located in west central Wisconsin and drains 1,893 square miles of land. In 2012, a TMDL was approved by the EPA for the Tainter and Menomin Lake impoundments along the Red Cedar River. The Red Cedar Water Quality Partnership is composed of state, municipal, agricultural, industrial and citizen representatives that are working together to develop a TMDL implementation plan that will achieve the necessary water quality improvements. Since formation, the Partnership has undertaken a number of innovative projects, including: establishment of a water quality fund, a farmer led council effort, and a civic governance process.

Panelists:

Dan Prestebak, County Conservationist, Dunn County Land and Water Conservation Division

Robert Walter, Chairman of the Dunn County Planning, Resources & Development Committee

Amanda Hanson, Conservation Planner, Dunn County Land and Water Conservation Division

It's All About the People: Using Social Science to Begin a Community Discussion

Increasingly those leading efforts to improve the health of watersheds are recognizing the importance of engaging their community in a dialogue about the future. Significant challenges exist that are tied to how different groups of stakeholders perceive water resources. This session will provide an overview of applied social science projects designed to inform water quality planning, along with a workshop activity designed to help participants begin to identify a process for determining where agreement and disagreement over water quality challenges exists in their own communities.

Presenter: Dr. Aaron Thompson, Center for Land Use Education, UW-Stevens Point



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