Rock River COALITION

RRC 20 YEARS

1994-2014

MIND • BODY • SPIRIT

Celebrating 20 years of improving water and communities

Our mission is to educate and provide opportunities for people of diverse interests to work together to improve the environmental, recreational, cultural, and economic resources of the Rock River Basin.

www.rockrivercoalition.org

Find us on Facebook

I LIVE, WORK, & PLAY IN THE *Rock River Basin*

Our Flagship Program **Citizen Monitoring**

2014 Volunteer Stream Monitoring Program Update

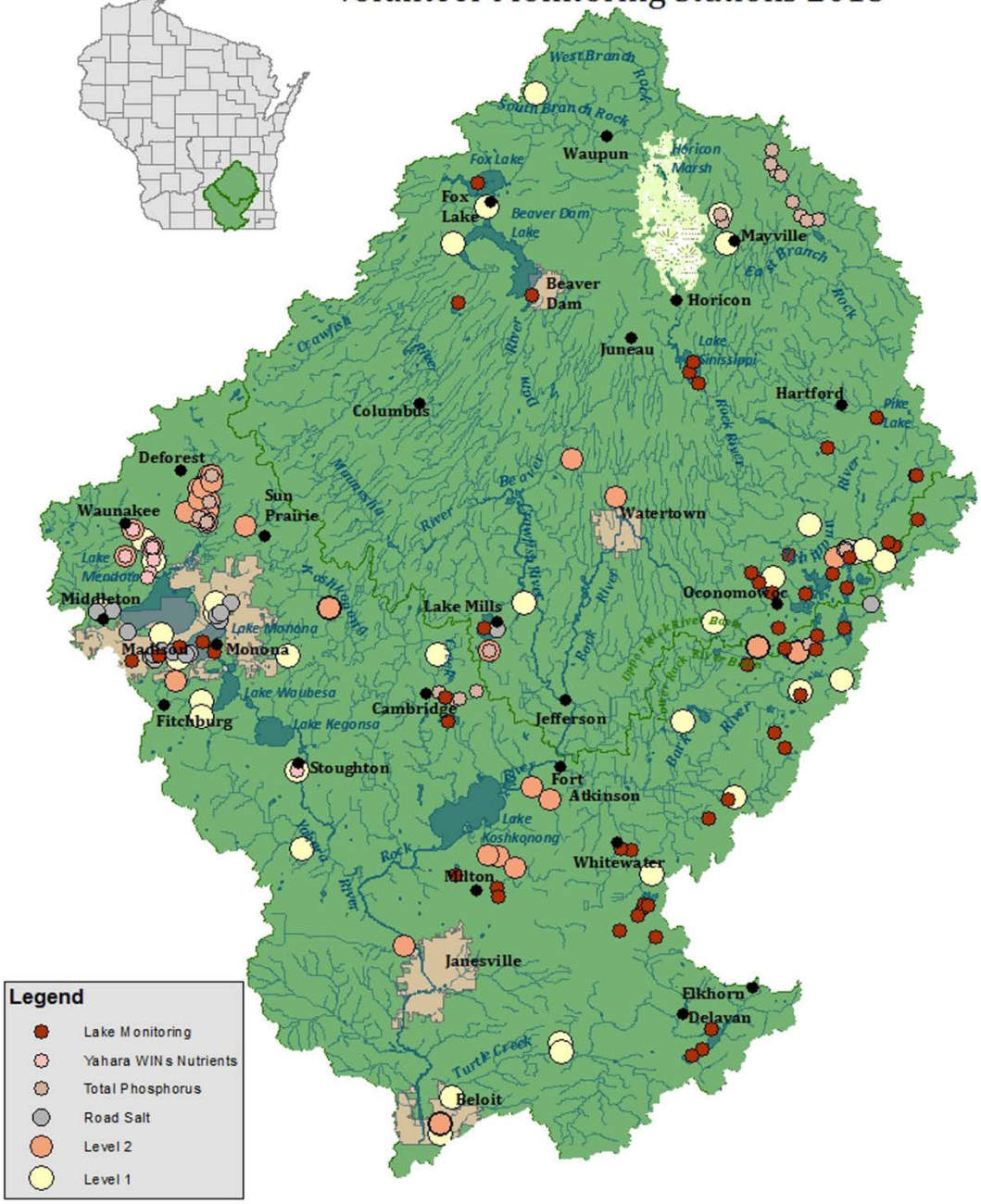
Volunteer Inquiries
107

Volunteers Trained
77

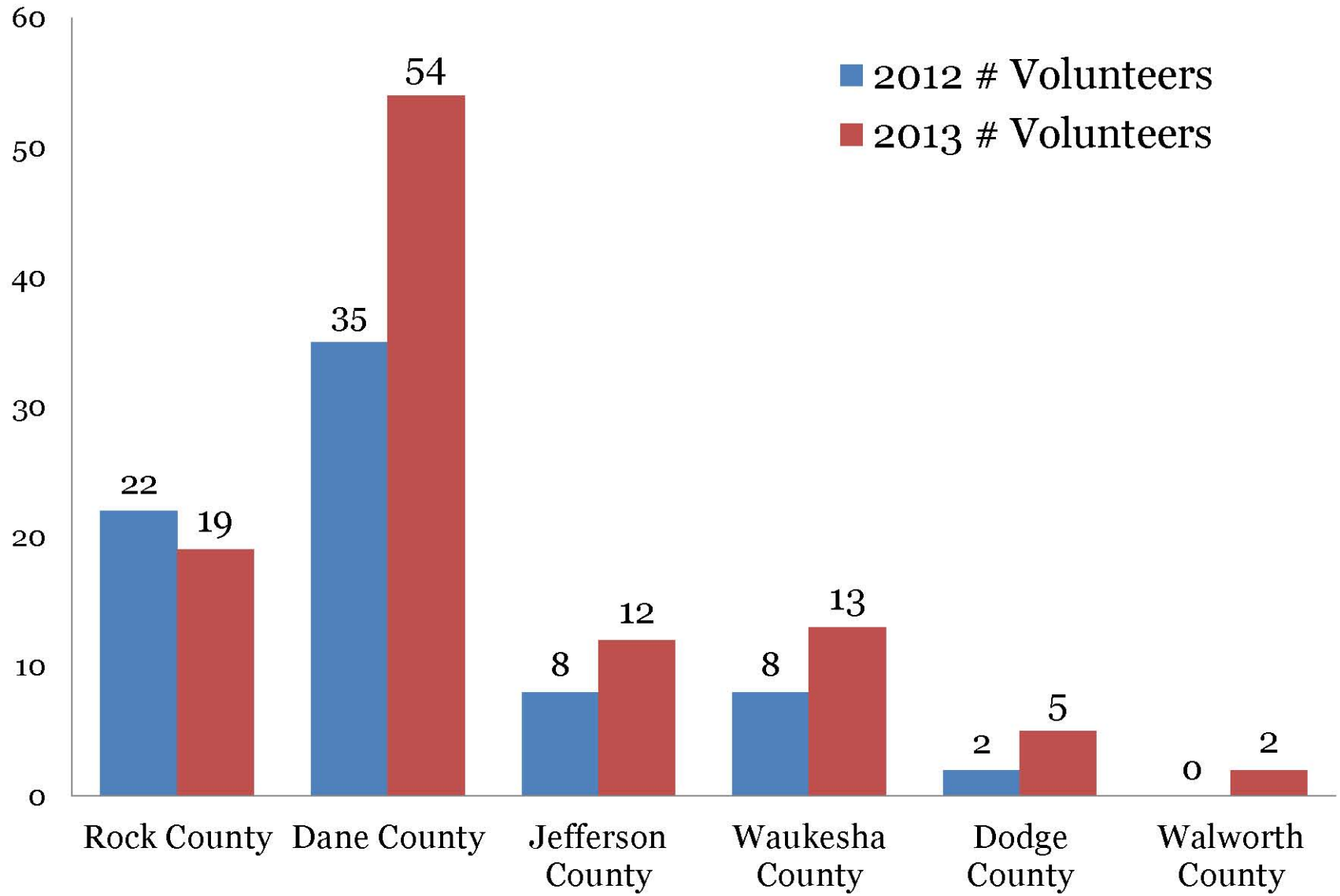
Volunteers Placed
65

County	# Trained
Columbia	2
Dane	32
Dodge	3
Jefferson	7
Rock	14
Walworth	3
Waukesha	1
Washington	2
Outside Basin	1

Rock River Coalition
Volunteer Monitoring Stations 2013

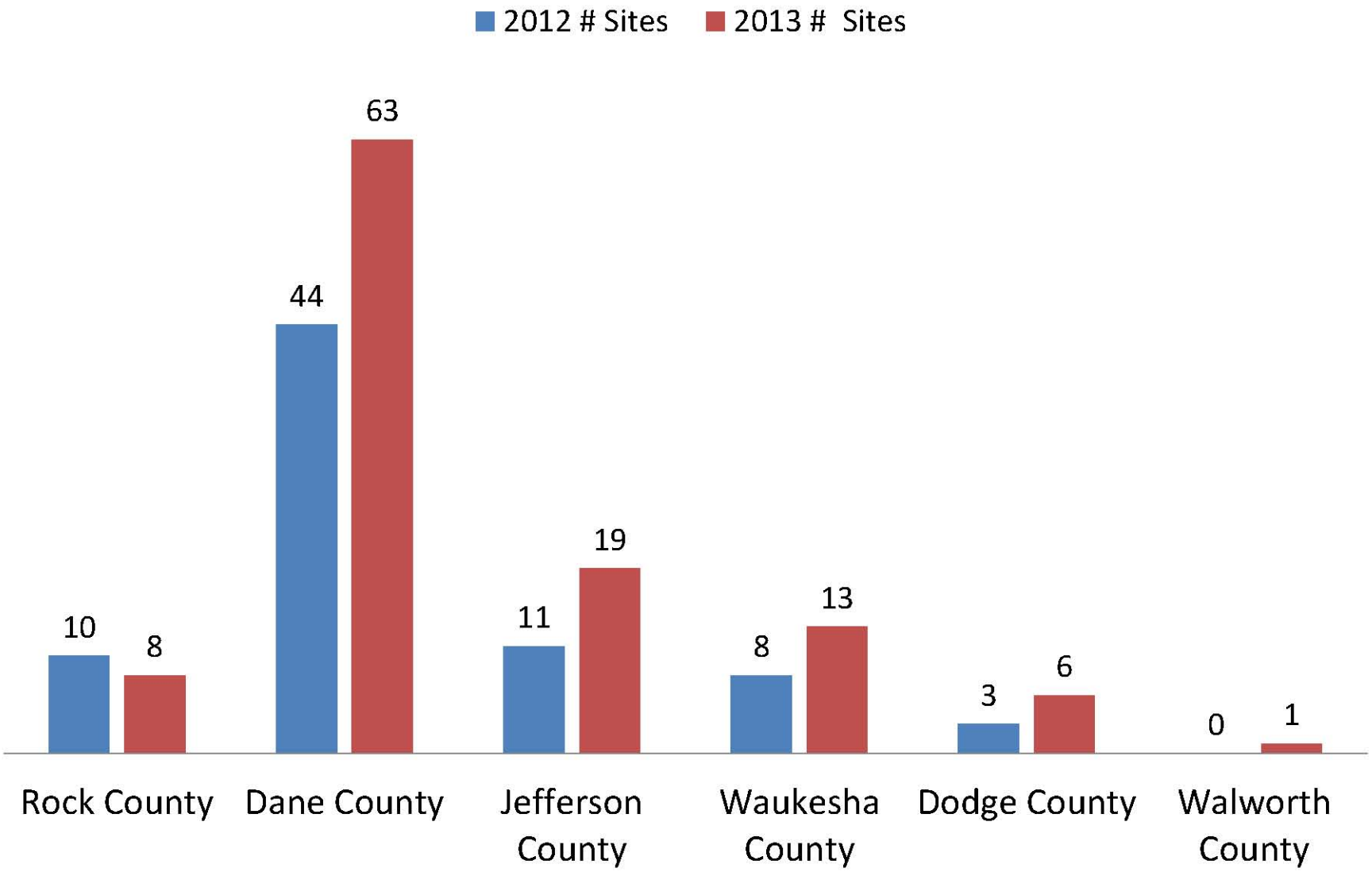


We are growing…



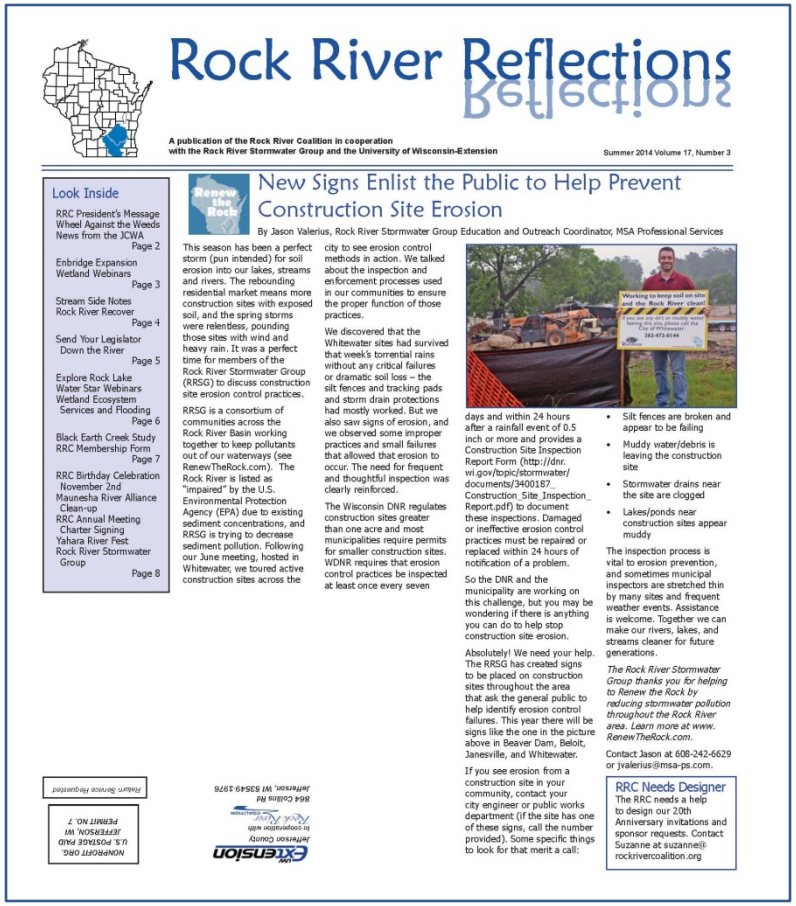
Prepared by: N. Sheehan, 03/2014

More streams are being monitored…



Prepared by: N. Sheehan, 03/2014

Workshops, Webinars, Newsletters



Rock River Reflections

A publication of the Rock River Coalition in cooperation with the Rock River Stormwater Group and the University of Wisconsin-Extension

Summer 2014 Volume 17, Number 3

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New Signs Enlist the Public to Help Prevent Construction Site Erosion

By Jason Valerius, Rock River Stormwater Group Education and Outreach Coordinator, MSA Professional Services

This season has been a perfect storm (pun intended) for soil erosion into our lakes, streams and rivers. The rebounding residential market means more construction sites with exposed soil, and the spring storms were relentless, pounding those sites with wind and heavy rain. It was a perfect time for members of the Rock River Stormwater Group (RRSG) to discuss construction site erosion control practices.

RRSG is a consortium of communities across the Rock River Basin working together to keep pollutants out of our waterways (see RenewTheRock.com). The Rock River is listed as "impaired" by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) due to existing sediment concentrations, and RRSG is trying to decrease sediment pollution. Following our June meeting, hosted in Whitewater, we toured active construction sites across the city to see erosion control methods in action. We talked about the inspection and enforcement processes used in our communities to ensure the proper function of those practices.

We discovered that the Whitewater sites had survived that week's torrential rains without any critical failures or dramatic soil loss – the silt fences and tracking pads and storm drain protections had mostly worked. But we also saw signs of erosion, and we observed some improper practices and small failures that allowed that erosion to occur. The need for frequent and thoughtful inspection was clearly reinforced.

The Wisconsin DNR regulates construction sites greater than one acre and most municipalities require permits for smaller construction sites. WDNR requires that erosion control practices be inspected at least once every seven days and within 24 hours after a rainfall event of 0.5 inch or more and provides a Construction Site Inspection Report Form (http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/stormwater/documents/3400187_Construction_Site_Inspection_Report.pdf) to document these inspections. Damaged or ineffective erosion control practices must be repaired or replaced within 24 hours of notification of a problem.

So the DNR and the municipality are working on this challenge, but you may be wondering if there is anything you can do to help stop construction site erosion.

Absolutely! We need your help. The RRSG has created signs to be placed on construction sites throughout the area that ask the general public to help identify erosion control failures. This year there will be signs like the one in the picture above in Beaver Dam, Beloit, Janesville, and Whitewater.

If you see erosion from a construction site in your community, contact your city engineer or public works department (if the site has one of these signs, call the number provided). Some specific things to look for that merit a call:

- Silt fences are broken and appear to be failing
- Muddy water/debris is leaving the construction site
- Stormwater drains near the site are clogged
- Lakes/ponds near construction sites appear muddy

The inspection process is vital to erosion prevention, and sometimes municipal inspectors are stretched thin by many sites and frequent weather events. Assistance is welcome. Together we can make our rivers, lakes, and streams cleaner for future generations.

The Rock River Stormwater Group thanks you for helping to Renew the Rock by reducing stormwater pollution throughout the Rock River area. Learn more at www. RenewTheRock.com.

Contact Jason at 608-242-6629 or jvalerius@msa-ps.com.

RRC Needs Designer
The RRC needs a help to design our 20th Anniversary invitations and sponsor requests. Contact Suzanne at suzanne@rockrivercoalition.org

Working to keep soil on site and the Rock River clean!
If you see any dirt or muddy water being tracked off site, please call the Jefferson County Hotline
262-473-0144

Extension
Jefferson County
In cooperation with
Agriculture
Education
864 Collins Rd
Jefferson, WI 53549-1976

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Chapters:

Friends of Badfish Creek Watershed

- eradicate large stands of Japanese Knotweed
- control wild parsnip
- working to install canoe and kayak launch sites

Maunesha River Alliance – Waterloo/Marshall

- community-wide clean-up along the river
- monitoring water quality
- learning about the health and challenges to the river.

Johnson Creek Watershed Alliance

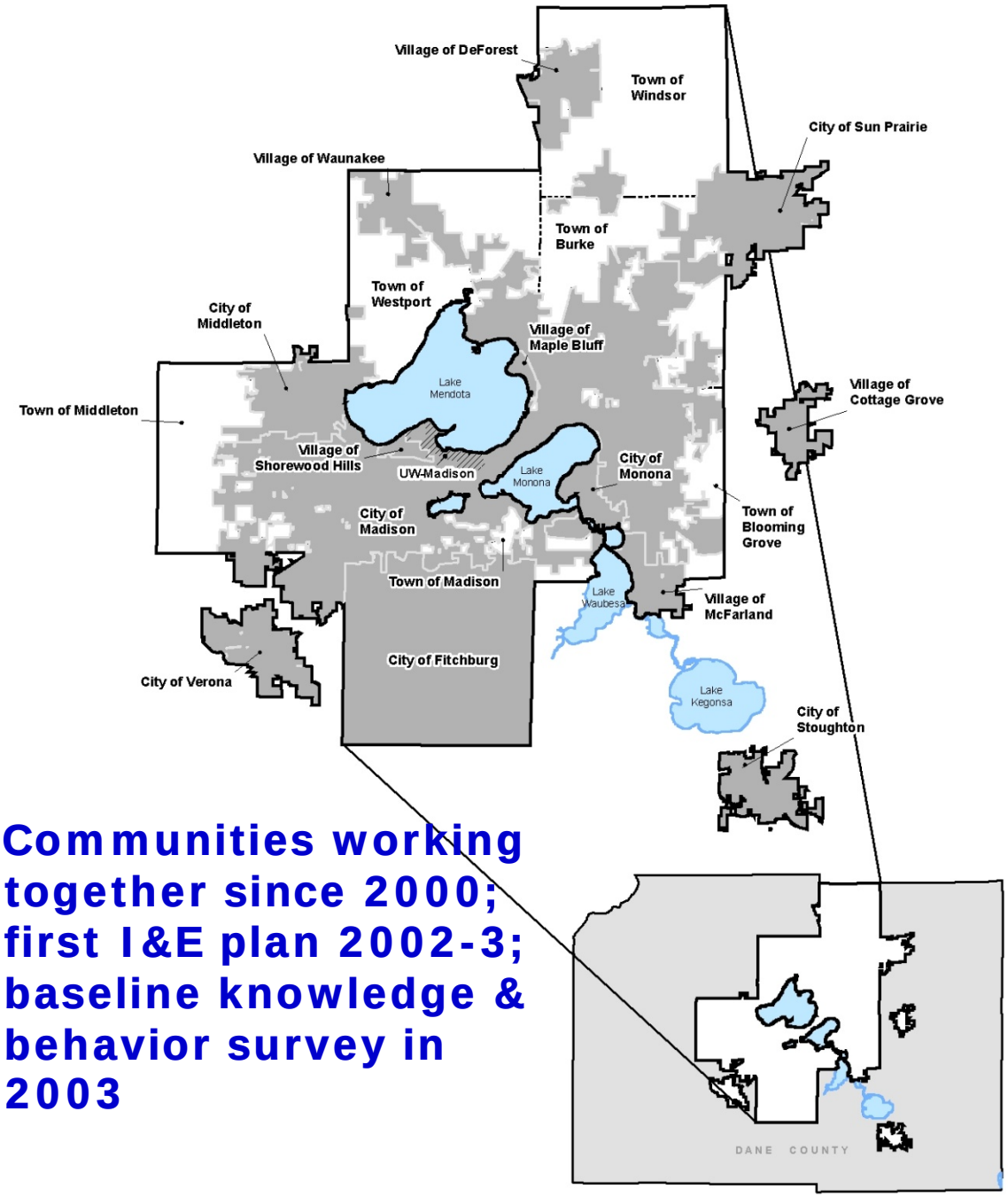
- working to improve a conservancy area within the village.

www.myfairlakes.com

Madison Area Municipal Storm Water Partnership Outreach & Education in the Rock River Basin

Sue Jones, Dane County Office of Lakes and Watersheds

Rock River Recovery Annual Meeting, September 17, 2014



Communities working together since 2000; first I&E plan 2002-3; baseline knowledge & behavior survey in 2003

- **<u>7 cities:</u>** Fitchburg, Madison, Middleton, Monona, Stoughton, Sun Prairie, Verona
- **<u>6 villages:</u>** Cottage Grove, DeForest, Maple Bluff, McFarland, Shorewood Hills, Waunakee
- **<u>6 townships:</u>** Blooming Grove, Burke, Madison, Middleton, Westport, Windsor
- **UW–Madison**
- **Dane County**

Intergovernmental agreements since 2003; first permit issued 2004

Yard signs

Newspaper inserts

Web and print ads

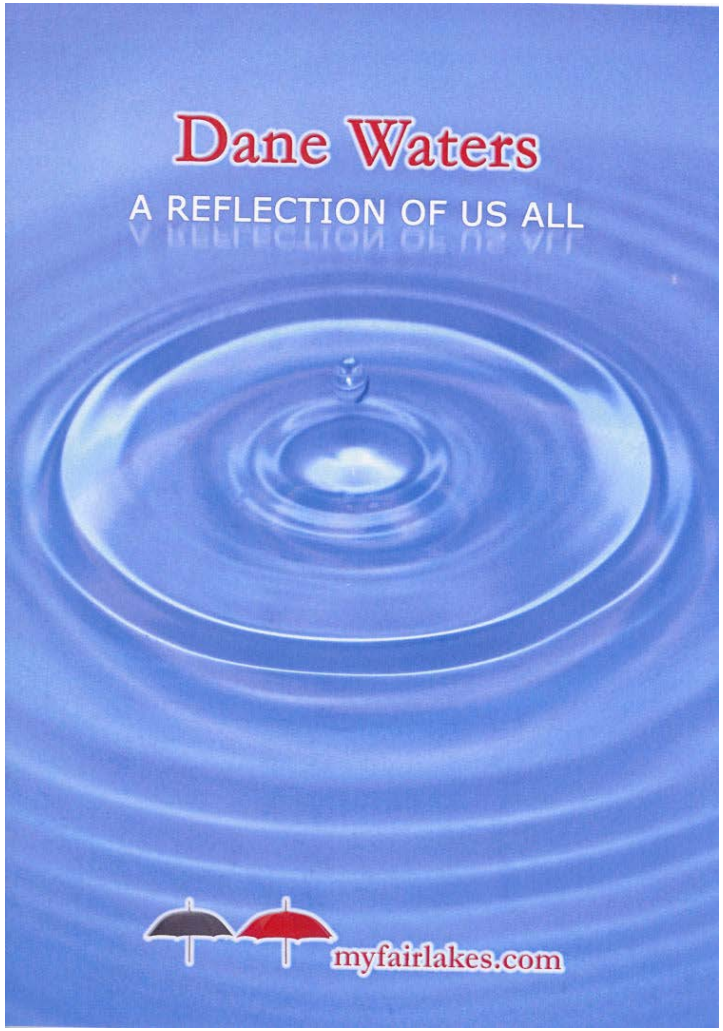
Beverage coasters

Articles

Brochures

Plant Dane! Grant Program

Storm Drain Marking



26-minute DVD used on public and cable TV, in workshops, etc

Other Projects

- Salt Use Workshops
- Storm Water Curriculum
- Expos, displays, presentations
- Newsletter articles, social media
- Surveys – every 5 years since 2003 baseline
- Grants have funded TV, radio, billboards

DANE COUNTY
OFFICE OF
LAKES & WATERSHEDS

Community Engagement

- Increase effectiveness of water leaders
- Increase water volunteerism (Take a Stake in Our Waters – and more!)
- Develop informed constituencies
- Develop and strengthen partnerships for meeting water resources goals

www.danewaters.com

www.myfairlakes.com

Madison Area Municipal Storm Water Partnership

Sue Jones 608-224-3764
info@myfairlakes.com

Renew the Rock

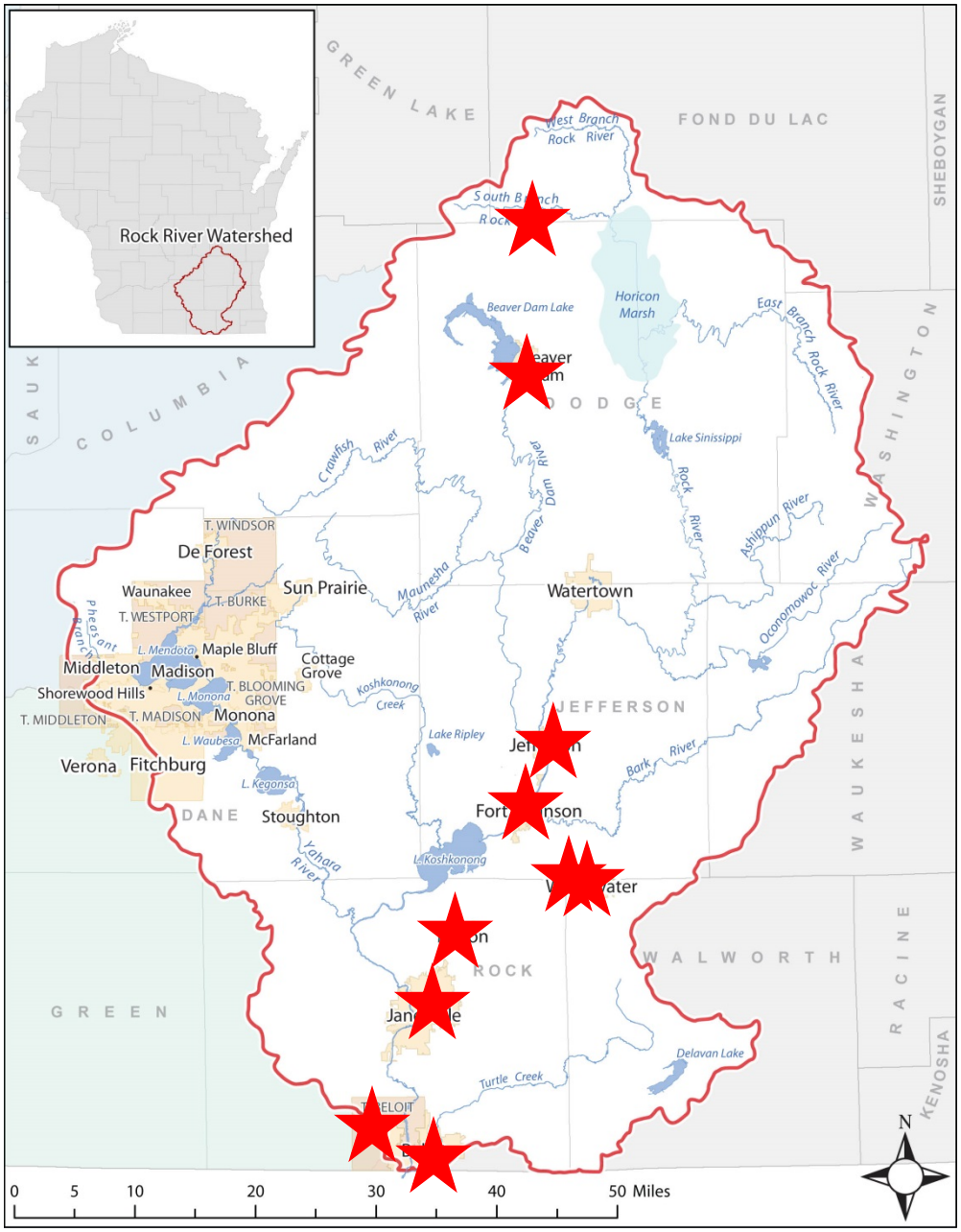
Making Stormwater Cleaner and Waterways Healthier Across South Central Wisconsin

Rock River Stormwater Group

Jason Valerius, Outreach and Education Coordinator
(MSA Professional Services)

jvalerius@msa-ps.com
608-242-6629

RenewTheRock.com

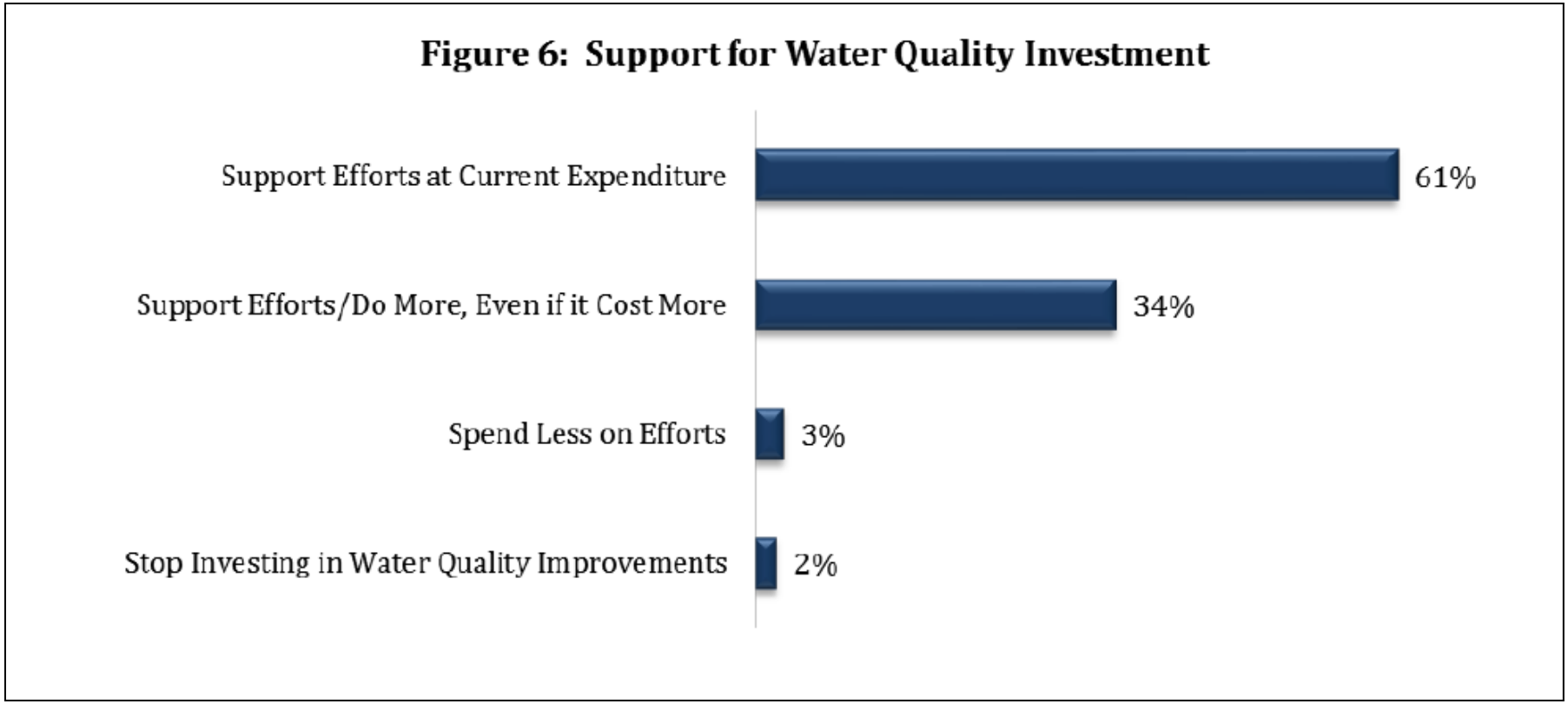


MEMBERS

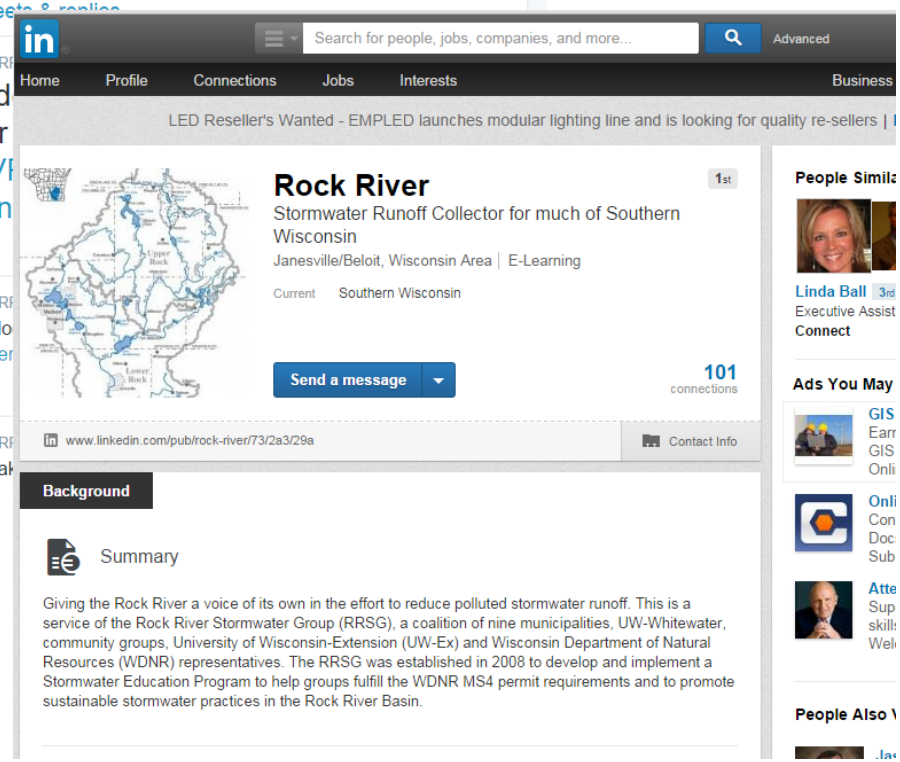
City of Waupun
City of Beaver Dam
City of Jefferson
City of Fort Atkinson
UW-Whitewater
City of Whitewater
City of Milton
City of Janesville
Town of Beloit
City of Beloit

Community Survey

- Fall 2013
- 159 respondents (17%)



Social Media



Construction Site Signs

Newspaper Inserts

2014 Winter Road Management Workshop

The Winter Road Management Workshop will be conducted by Connie Fortin, an environmental expert from Fortin Consulting and Tom Broadbent, a former plow driver and trainer for MnDOT.

November 12, 2014

UW-Whitewater

Contact MSA to register

The training will focus on snow and ice control with reduced environmental impacts. Training will include:

- Calibration
- Anti-icing
- Salt & Sand
- Deicing
- Application rates
- Effective plowing techniques
- Documenting & Charting
- Chemical Melting Temperatures
- **Wisconsin's MS4 permit update on deicer and anti-icing tracking**

School Outreach

Renew the Rock

Making Stormwater Cleaner and Waterways Healthier Across South Central Wisconsin

Rock River Stormwater Group

Jason Valerius, Outreach and Education Coordinator
(MSA Professional Services)

jvalerius@msa-ps.com
608-242-6629

RenewTheRock.com