

**Rock River Recovery: Ag Sector Team Meeting**  
April 22, 9:00 – 12:00  
[UW Extension](#)  
[864 Collins Rd, Jefferson, WI 53549](#)  
Phone:(920) 674-7295

**MINUTES:**

**Implementation Check-in**

- How to get P numbers for practices?
  - o Estimate P-Reduction in template
  - o NMP's, waterways, etc.
    - Numbers from STEPL can seem overly high?
    - Sediment TSS/P control on the ground/field (STEPL), versus what is delivered to the stream (TMDL-SWAT)
  - o Database of practices to build on and develop P/Soil estimates?
    - Acres of NMP
    - Feet of waterways
    - Storage
    - Etc.
    - How to take these and develop P-reduction estimates to populate template?
  - o Most tools give sediment....but not P
  - o Most NMP's give a number...."they make it meet T, P"
    - Don't compare pre and post practices....
    - E.g. SNAP+ shows results for a specific plan....not a pre/post comparison
- Yahara WINS is using 1/10<sup>th</sup> lb per acre for NMP reporting to MMSD
- How to verify for WQT? Credits? Etc.
- How to scale-up practices and track for an entire watershed to really understand what is happening?

**Sector Team Goals/Vision/Direction?**

- Develop a shared database of estimates for reductions by practices to use in template
  - o Example to look to for references?
  - o What are others doing? Yahara WINS, Oconomowoc, Lodi, etc.
- Develop a reliable tool to provide P-reduction estimates
  - o Percent reductions (is it accurate?), versus actual magnitude (lbs)
  - o SWAT vs. STEPL vs. SNAP+
- Meeting quarterly is valuable, like small group of just LCD's

- Broader groups, other types of events could be arranged separately
  - o E.g. field days for farmers

### **Tasks**

- How to finish county portions of TMDL Implementation Plan?
  - o What is the date for delivery/completion of the county
  - o Please have completed by June 1
  - o We can review/finalize at the next team meeting in July

### **What is the value of the Ag Sector Team?**

- Value in communicating with peers – quarterly
- Sharing notes on efforts, practices, coordinating events, etc.

### **Who to have involved?**

- For template, estimating numbers – just counties
- Broader audience – especially farmers?
  - o Smaller, more local groups....rather than county-wide
  - o What would be valuable?
  - o Do counties know farmer-leaders they can identify to participate in farmer-led initiative?
  - o Farmer-led effort would be separate

### **How does monitoring fit into this?**

- To show the successes
- To document improvements from practices?
- What monitoring can DNR provide?
- What other resources are out there?
  - o WQT/AM – Madison Met, Oconomowoc, etc.

### **How to spread the word?**

- Farmer networks?
- Dedicated ag newsletter? Not at this point....stick with monthly newsletter that goes to everyone
- Counties may please provide “success stories” to include in newsletter....
  - o Emphasize all the good work being done
  - o Focus on positive
  - o Encourage similar efforts across the basin

### **How to pay for cover-crops?**

- What are restrictions for 319 \$\$ towards practices?
- Can there be a “special pot” of money to support utilization of cover crops?

- Easy, no big application, etc.
- Do all the application work, but can't get it, don't win the grant

### **Demonstration Fields/Farms**

- Locations w/in Rock River Basin?
- DNR lands in Rock County?
  - A number of locations.....
  - Rental agreements.....
  - Practices on state lands?
    - NR151 minimum requirements?
    - Managed by DNR wildlife manager

### **Ag Resource Day**

- Contact local service providers
  - Landmark, etc.
  - Other suggestions?
- Develop draft agenda
- Timing?
  - Plan for when farmers are available
- Location?
  - Rock River too big for one....
  - Upper and Lower Rock?
- Coordinate with activities/developments of local farmer groups

### **Tasks for next meeting**

Meeting Minutes - Done

Schedule next Meeting – July – specific date TBD

Identify farmer/leaders that would be receptive to farmer-led group

Templates from Counties – June 30, in time for next meeting

Rock River Newsletter – Share Farmer/Ag/Conservation Success stories with [Marks.riedel@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Marks.riedel@wisconsin.gov) to include in newsletter

**Adjourn: 1145**