

## ROCK RIVER RECOVERY JULY NETWORKING FORUM: EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Thursday July 30 2015, 9:30 – 12:00  
WI DNR South Central Service Center  
3911 Fish Hatchery Rd  
Fitchburg, WI

### AGENDA

| <u>Time</u>          | <u>Topic</u>  |
|----------------------|---|
| <u>9:30 – 10:00</u>  | <u>Networking Reception (coffee, snacks)</u>  |
| <u>10:00 - 10:15</u> | <u>Welcome, Introductions, Agenda</u>   |
| <u>10:15 - 10:45</u> | <u>TMDL Implementation Updates</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Implementation – Mark Riedel</li><li>• Agriculture – Mike Gilbertson</li><li>• Education &amp; Outreach – Mark Riedel</li><li>• Monitoring – Mike Sorge</li><li>• MS4 – Eric Rortvedt</li><li>• Waste Water – Amy Garbe</li></ul>  |
| <u>10:45 - 11:45</u> | <u>Education &amp; Outreach Roundtable Discussions</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Networking &amp; Collaboration</li><li>• Basin-wide Activities (e.g. annual meeting)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Paddle &amp; Probe Adv. – Suzanne Wade</li></ul></li><li>• Getting the word out (newsletter, etc.?)</li><li>• Missing Pieces?</li><li>• What would you like from<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ WDNR? Sector Team?</li></ul></li></ul> |
| <u>11:45 – 12:00</u> | <u>Wrap-up: Summary of Day</u>  |
| <u>12:00</u>         | <u>Adjourn</u>  |



Contact: Mark Riedel  
marks.riedel@wisconsin.gov

# **ROCK RIVER RECOVERY JULY NETWORKING FORUM: EDUCATION & OUTREACH**

## **MINUTES**

### **Welcome & Introductions:**

- Attendees introduced themselves and where they were from/who they represented
- No Agenda updates were requested

### **TMDL Implementation Updates:**

- Implementation – Mark Riedel: Provided a summary of past meetings, working groups and forums. Reviewed the implementation strategy and framework, requirements from the Clean Water Act and USEPA, and what is meant by maintaining “reasonable assurance” that TMDL Implementation will make sufficient progress toward restoring designated uses of impaired waters. Progress update on drafting of sections for the Rock River Recovery Implementation. Development of the Implementation Plan has taken longer than originally anticipated to allow more time for input from counties on Ag/NPS related challenges. First review by EPA had tentatively been planned for the start of federal FY 2016 (October 2015), however this will need to be updated. An Implementation Plan is not expected before CY 2016 (January). People requested an open public review/comment period on the draft Implementation Plan, in addition to the Sector Team input/review process. A longer review period of at least 30 days was also requested.
- Agriculture – Mike Gilbertson: Update on progress of working with counties to draft county template. Schedule the next Ag/NPS Sector Team. Include regular updates on progress/activities to share with stakeholders in the basin. Task: planning an Ag Sector Team meeting with partners to explore how to best emulate farmer led initiatives from other areas across the Rock River Basin (e.g. St. Croix Farmer Councils, Yahara Pride Farms, etc.).
- Education & Outreach – Mark Riedel: Summary of past quarterly forums and Education Outreach Sector Team meeting in April. Group decided there were not time, staff, or resources available to plan an “Annual Meeting” like last year. Instead, have another quarterly forum. Summary of Monthly newsletters via Gov Delivery and extending an invitation to the



Contact: Mark Riedel  
marks.riedel@wisconsin.gov

## **ROCK RIVER RECOVERY JULY NETWORKING FORUM: EDUCATION & OUTREACH**

Rock River Recovery community to submit events or other stories/blurbs that are relevant and might be included in the newsletter.

- Monitoring – Mark Riedel: Monitoring staff were not able to attend the forum due to field work requirements. An update on the Yahara Watershed monitoring was provided. An update on the draft monitoring section of the implementation plan was provided, and included the need/importance of the role of citizen monitoring to facilitate TMDL Implementation. The group discussed citizen monitoring and the role the Rock River Coalition plays in the basin with their monitoring program. Can this be expanded to more communities and streams? Yes, this is the vision. DNR has a very small monitoring budget that is spread across the entire state....simply does not have the resources. However, greater citizen monitoring efforts can be supported via DNR grants, and adaptive management and water quality trading projects can provide resources to support monitoring.
- MS4 – Eric Rortvedt: Eric provided an update from the NASECA Board meeting. Additional meetings are Sept 24<sup>th</sup> (Rice Lake), Nov 30, Dec 1 Erosion Control workshop and Feb 3,4 NASECA annual conference. People that are interested can contact Eric for more info or visit the NASECA website. Updates on status and progress of MS4 communities and permitting in the Rock, and an explanation of the permit approach envisioned to support TMDL implementation.
- Waste Water – Amy Garbe: Amy provided an update on permit progress for the basin – first round complete, now working on remaining permits in the basin. Update on the multi-discharger variance (MDV) – this is now the term being used as ACT378 is going through the EPA review and approval process. This process will not be complete until 2016 and likely not being used as a permit compliance option until after that. Updates on adaptive management projects (Oconomowoc and Yahara WINS). Next round of meetings/workshops for point sources is being planned for next year (e.g. Phosphorus Workshops). People requested an open Sector Team meeting be planned to update stakeholders – not just the permit holders.



Contact: Mark Riedel  
marks.riedel@wisconsin.gov

## **ROCK RIVER RECOVERY JULY NETWORKING FORUM: EDUCATION & OUTREACH**

### **Education and Outreach Roundtable Discussion:**

- Paddle and Probe – Suzanne Wade, Rock River Coalition: Suzanne provided an overview of the Paddle and Probe event being planned for next year. Invited people interested to participate. Developing the working plan and logistics for the event, developing the budget, marketing materials, and identifying ways to fund the event including donors, private sponsors, advertising, etc.
- Forum Attendees then decided to have a large-format open discussion, rather than breaking into smaller discussion groups.
- Discussion of future Education & Outreach, how that might look, different roles, and the “missing pieces” given we have lost support from UW Extension Basin Educators. There will still be some UW Extension support, however it is spread state-wide and with fewer staff – John Exo and Peggy Compton. Discussed reaching out to county extension agents – this is something that should be done, however past efforts have not resulted in much attendance or support.
- Planning for next quarterly forum in October – multiple requests to have one focused on agricultural/NPS related challenges – esp w/regard to how to include farmers, how to find resources, and how to learn from “what works” in other areas. Suggestions included:
  - o Yahra Pride Farms
  - o Farmer led councils/coalitions
  - o Farm Bureau outreach
  - o Counties
  - o Note – Town & Country Resource Conservation District is dissolving – lost the vast majority of their funding and major participants have left the group.

### **Wrap Up:**

- A brief summary of the meeting was discussed
- People interested in joining a Sector Team should contact the team leader or Mark Riedel – contact info available via Gov-Delivery newsletter
- Tasks for the next quarter:
  - o Meeting minutes to be disseminated via Gov-Delivery
  - o Planning for the Quarterly Forum in October
    - Gov Delivery
    - Education & Outreach Sector Team
  - o Sector Team meetings
    - Waste Water planned for 2016
    - Agriculture/NPS meeting will be planned and announced
    - Monitoring meeting will be planned and announced
  - o Implementation Plan
    - County template under review/development with counties and being finalized
    - Schedule is being updated to reflect review process with counties. Original date of EPA review on October 2015 is no longer appropriate.



Contact: Mark Riedel  
marks.riedel@wisconsin.gov