

Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Lower Green Bay and Fox River Area of Concern

November 21, 2013, 3:00 – 5:00 pm

Green Bay Metropolitan Sewerage District Training Room, 2231 N. Quincy Street, Green Bay

Attendance

Keith Marquardt-WDNR, Pat Finder-Stone, Kathy Lefebvre, Julia Noordyk, Vicky Harris, Chuck Larscheid, Jeff Mazanec, Annette Pelegrin, Laurel Last, Angela Pierce, Janet Smith

TMDL Process (Keith Marquardt, WDNR)

Background: TSS is Total Suspended Solids aka sediment and it is the #1 pollutant to Wisconsin waters. It smothers aquatic habitat, depletes oxygen, and carries other pollutants which feed algae. Blue-green algae can be toxic and a health concern. The problem is phosphorus.

TMDL: this program looks at an entire watershed. There are 200,000 farm acres in the Lower Fox River watershed. The 303d section of the Clean Water Act addresses impaired waters and the state had to write a TMDL assessment for each impaired water body. It was noted by the CAC that the AOC RAP committees pushed the DNR to list the Fox River as impaired not just for PCBs but also for TSS and nutrients.

Water Quality Standards: Impaired waters are not meeting 1) designated uses, or 2) water quality criteria (pollution concentration limits).

TMDL or Total Maximum Daily Load is a way of quantifying the total amount of pollution received by a water body--specifically for this presentation, TP and TSS.

Details of the characteristics of the Lower Fox River watershed are in the TMDL Report http://www.uwgb.edu/watershed/REPORTS/Related_reports/TMDLs/LFR_TMDL_EPA_Submittal_Aug_2011.PDF

TMDL Program has restoration goals. TP and TSS reduction goals are 55-60% removal.

Implementation: How will we meet the goals? The mechanism the state can use lies with the wastewater treatment facilities (WWTF): write the new goals into new effluent limits within their wastewater permits. This will force WWTF to ratchet down P and TSS limits. However the state allows options: Facility upgrades (at great cost to taxpayers), water quality trading with other entities, and adaptive management. This means that as an alternative, WWTFs can work with other entities to install Best Management Practices (BMPs) to reduce runoff pollution, rather than install expensive upgrades to point sources. It is hoped that these alternatives or adaptive management will reduce pollution at a far lower cost to communities. BMPs are conservation practices. For example, stormwater runoff BMPs are retention basins where sediment settles out, flood control devices and street sweepers, grass swales, infiltration basins where soils allow water to soak in, and rain gardens.

Agriculture: Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs or large farms of around 700 cows or more) are considered point source polluters and NR151 regulates non-point ag runoff to meet Nutrient Management Plans (NMPs), Phosphorus Index (PI), Tolerable Soil Loss (T), by way of ag BMPs like buffer strips along streams, certain tillage practices, and setbacks.

The TMDL program works to implement these practices. It consists of the following committees: Ag runoff, monitoring, and outreach. Other committees involved: MS4/stormwater, point source, and technical.

AOC Outreach Subcommittee Report (Julia Noordyk, Wi Sea Grant)

We had our first AOC Outreach meeting where our goal was to lay the outreach groundwork by first defining a scope of work for our subcommittee. We reviewed the charter and acknowledged the many efforts and projects that are going on in our AOC. Where do we fit in and what can we realistically accomplish?

We brainstormed audiences and outreach efforts and projects and came up with the following key ideas:

Outreach/Education Idea	Effort Needed (1 = easiest; 2 = moderate; 3 = most difficult)	Voting Point Total
Develop Key audiences & messages for each of the 13 BUIs	2	13
Bay Beach Restoration	2	11
State of the Bay Report	2	11
Educate legislators	1	10
Community forum on water-related issues	1	6
Targeting potential funders to support AOC outreach/projects	3	2
Education of Best Management Practices/strategies that minimize nutrient loading	3	1
Booth for events	2	0
On the Bay outings	1	0

At our next meeting, we'll look further at the top 4 activities and continue to refine a Scope of Outreach Work for our AOC Citizens Advisory Committee.

Bay Beach Project (Angela Pierce, Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission)

The Restoration Action Plan for Bay Beach involves water quality monitoring and beach redesign. The Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission is the PI (Principal Investigator) or coordinator of a grant from the 2012 EPA Urban Waters Plan. Other partners are the NEW Wilderness Alliance, City of Green Bay Parks and Recreation Department, professors from UW-Oshkosh, Dr. Greg Kleinheinz and Dr. Julia Kinzelman. The goal of the project is to improve livability in the Green Bay area. A swimmable Bay Beach would be a symbol of watershed recovery.

Angela gave a history of Bay Beach with cool photos from the early 1900s that showed the vigorous swimming beach. She then reviewed the results of the Beach Sanitary Survey Project team. UW-Oshkosh personnel gathered E. coli, microcystin (a toxin from cyanobacteria which cause harmful algae blooms) and water clarity measurements at certain intervals on the beach during the summer months in 2012 and 2013. For both years the average E. coli levels were below the exceedance level of 235 mpn/100 ml. Microcystin levels increased in July/August but were still below any dangerous levels. It was concluded that during these two monitoring periods public health standards were not exceeded.

The Beach Redesign Plan by Miller Engineers and Scientists is in the initial review stage with the City of Green Bay. It includes 1) Defining a managed beach area 2) Adding sand to nourish the beach and beach grooming to discourage phragmites 3) Dune vegetation 4) Creating a dune to cover the rocks which are a flood control device that was installed by the Army Corps of Engineers and 5) Add a boardwalk. The concept plan also includes non-engineered improvements and practices like beach grooming, litter management, geese and gull management. 2014 will bring continued monitoring and Technical Committee work, public feedback and outreach. This phase is scheduled to conclude by June 2015.

Support Grant Ideas

These grants are designated for monitoring and outreach. \$200,000 is available for all 5 AOCs in the state of Wisconsin. There's a \$25,000 limit per project. The following ideas were reviewed by the committee and written comments were collected from each member:

- AOC...On the Move --Kayak Outings through Barkhausen
 - Last year 3 outings cost around \$1300. 39 people participated.
 - I'd like to sponsor at least 6 outings, but we'd have the public pay a portion of the cost.
 - Scope of Work and approximate Cost is completed. Annette will work on Schedule with Matt Kriese of Barkhausen.
- AOC...On the Move --"Send your Legislator Down the River"
 - Canoe and/or Kayak Outings through NEW Paddlers
 - Political audience, media involvement
 - Upon approval of the CAC, Annette could work on Scope of Work, Cost, and Schedule with Jeff Mazanec of NEW Paddlers, Trisha Garrison, Communications and Education Coordinator with NEW Water. We could possibly partner to do an event at the boat launch at the mouth of the Fox R. in conjunction with the Jack Day Education Center, and/or in conjunction with NEW Paddlers East River Paddle event. Upon CAC approval, Annette will talk to Trisha and Jeff about these possibilities.
- AOC Publication Development
 - Subcommittee will help define what pieces are needed: brochures, signs, PowerPoint, event, etc.
 - Subcommittee will continue with this effort at their next meeting in early December to define a focus project or event and subsequent Scope of Work.
 - More details will be shared at the next meeting.
- AOC Outreach at Jack Day Educational Center
 - Video Display for AOC information and for our student BUI Videos
 - Companion Poster that helps frame the videos
 - Display will be housed in the Jack Day Center located at the mouth of the Fox R.
 - Upon approval of the CAC, Annette will work with Tricia Garrison and NEW Water technical department to develop a Scope of Work, Cost, and Schedule.
- Citizen Science
 - Chad will check with Matt Kriese of Barkhausen and Mike Reed of the Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary to develop Scope of Work, Cost, and Schedule.
- CAC... on the Move-CAC Boat Tour or Sea Grant Boat outing
 - Annette will check with Vicky Harris, other boat options
 - Upon approval of the CAC, Annette will work with Julia Noordyk and Vicky Harris of Sea Grant to develop a Scope of Work, Cost, and Schedule. (Possible Foxy Lady Script)
- Aesthetics Monitoring-Continuing with the program

Other announcements and key dates

- Rap Update Report: Laurel posted a draft for public comment.
- The next AOC Outreach Subcommittee meeting is December 10th.
- **Our next regular AOC CAC meeting will be January 16th.**