

# Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

## *Lower Green Bay and Fox River Area of Concern*

March 20, 2014, 3:00 – 5:00 pm

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

### Attendees

Nic Sparacio, Laurel Last, Janet Smith, Jim Jolly, Bill Hafs, Jeff Mazanec, Pat Finder-Stone, Kaira Kamke, Julia Noordyk, Chad Cook, Annette Pelegrin

**Presentations** (Jim Jolly, Brown County Land and Water Conservation Department; Bill Hafs, NEW Water)

### **Our Approach to TMDL and Adaptive Management**

#### **Bill Hafs' presentation (NEW Water)**

Background: The laws designed to protect water NR151, NR 243 were written before our current water quality standards and these laws are not linked to the TMDL and current water quality standards. The primary issue in Brown County is the loss of cropland and more intense agriculture, which means a decrease in hay and an increase in corn which is a row crop. Another issue is development. There is a relationship- if you increase impervious surface of an area to >10%, the water quality goes down.

The Silver Creek Project evaluates adaptive management on a small scale. Silver creek is a sub watershed of Duck Creek. The majority of this watershed is the Oneida Nation which makes the project easier to implement because the tribe is in an agreement to participate and there is only one governmental body to deal with, as opposed to a watershed that crosses many municipalities. The goal is to evaluate what BMPs work best in our area so that overall, we spend the least amount of money to accomplish the greatest water quality. The Silver Creek project is a cooperative effort between NEW Water, the Oneida Tribe and other stakeholders in Silver Creek. It is a pilot project to evaluate on a small scale the effectiveness of installing conservation practices on agriculture land and to evaluate phosphorus and sediment reduction and the biological health of Silver Creek.

#### **Jim Jolly's presentation (BCLWCD)**

The Brown County Land & Water Conservation Department's job is to provide agronomy support. Agriculture is a \$5.7 billion dollar industry in Brown County alone.

A large part of our sediment and nutrient problem in the river and bay is our clay soil, which holds pollutants and stays in suspension. There are many false presuppositions, for example, 1) current state and local laws will solve the P problem; 2) the Fox River Cleanup will solve the problem; 3) more laws will solve the problem.

Innovation is needed. For example 1) multi cover crop combinations; 2) gypsum; 3) no till; 4) slag trenches for DP from tiles (slag from iron processes). P removal technologies can help rebalance nutrients across the landscape. P credits are a new business model.

The Great Lakes Demonstration Farm Network - Lower Fox River will demonstrate to farmers and the general public that the right combination of traditional conservation practices and other innovative technologies functioning on the landscape can produce viable and sustainable economic and environmental benefits. The project will quantify phosphorus, nitrogen and sediment reductions through state of the art edge of field USGS monitoring. The project's overall intent is to share the findings by providing educational & technology transfer opportunities for the public, farmers, land managers, agribusiness, environmental and natural resource agencies as well as research entities and their partners.

**Outreach Subcommittee Update** (Julia Noordyk, Wisconsin Sea Grant)

**Other announcements and key dates**

- Lower Fox River Watershed Monitoring Program Watershed Symposium April 8, 2014
- Aesthetics monitoring Kickoff meeting is April 1, 2014, from 3-5 pm. Check the website for details.
- NEW Water and the Green Bay Water Utility will celebrate World Water Day at the Jack Day Educational Center on Friday March 21, at 1:00 pm.

**Next Meeting April 17, 2014**