

Red Cedar River TMDL Planning/Implementation Meeting 10/31/13

Barron County Government Center, Barron, WI

Summary and Next Steps

Present at the meeting: Ron Verdon-TMLIA; Dan Prestebak, Amanda Hanson- Dunn Co. Land Conservation; Tim Jergenson-UW-Extension Barron Co; Tyler Gruetzmacher-Barron County Conservationist; David Gifford-Barron Co Zoning Administrator; Paul LaLiberte, Buzz Sorge, Ruth King-WDNR; Julia Olmstead-UW-Extension Farmer Led Council project leader; Dan Zerr-UW-Extension Natural Resource Educator

The meeting opened with introductions and everyone sharing initial thoughts and expectations.

Common themes included:

- We need clean lakes and rivers
- Time to get things done
- Build on existing networks and partnerships
- How can each of us help move things forward?
- Cropland needs to be addressed, with fewer barnyards causing problems
- Red Cedar Conference is a good asset to progress
- Many changes over the last 20 years or so that the River system has been studied
- Expert/top-down model hasn't worked, need new way of approaching the problem
- Farmers should be farming for clean water, "harvesting water"
- Many factors out of our control, such as commodity prices
- Finances tied to water loss gives us a good leverage point

Some needs were discussed:

- Need a process to get citizens involved
- Successes need to be celebrated
- More people need to be involved
- Need large scale inventory for areas of concern; soil test phosphorus, SNAP, PI, etc.
- TRM grants and other state grants that only fund major on-the-ground projects are not a good fit; need money with fewer strings attached

Ideas for next steps:

- Outlines of different ways to proceed per "Nine element plan"
- Need an official planning and implementation team
- One person should be the point person for "writing" the plan, with feedback from the group
- Need to work in farming "neighborhoods"
- Find ways to get farmers to keep the soil covered
- Determine other potential important stakeholders

- Need to determine what any grant money tied to an implementation plan can be used for, and what strings are attached
- What type of plan do we draw up, and how?
- Purpose of any document we draw up needs to be clear and spelled out to show how the community will be involved in implementation
- Further meetings will likely be necessary to iron out the process

Action Items:

- Paul agreed to find out more detail about DNR grants tied to TMDL/Nine-element implementation plans, and see just what such grants can be used for.
- Dan Z. will outline possible paths to writing a plan, and forward that information to the group.
- Dan Z. will coordinate any future meetings and discussion.
- Other attendees will think about possible stakeholders to bring into the process.