

Red Cedar River Water Quality Partnership Meeting Minutes

10/8/14, Barron County Government Center, 335 E Monroe Ave, Barron, WI

Present at the meeting: Paul LaLiberte, Andrew Craig (phone), Buzz Sorge – WDNR; Nels Paulson – UW Stout; Randy Eide – City of Menomonie; Steve Rasmussen – Dunn County Board; Ron Verdon – TMLIA; Tom Quinn – Farmers Union; Dan Prestebak, Amanda Hansen – Dunn County Land Conservation; Tim Jergenson – Barron Co UW Extension; Rod Olson – Desair Lake Association; Dan Zerr-UW-Extension.

Review of Last Meeting and Current Agenda: Dan Z asked the group if there were any comments or suggestions on both the last meeting's minutes and current meeting agenda. There were none of note.

Check-In: Everyone shared any new information/developments pertinent to the Red Cedar River Watershed (RCRW) efforts.

- Dan Z: Told the group about some research papers that discuss no-till farming, and the aspects of no-till that may or may not increase soluble phosphorus in runoff. He will send the papers out to everyone.
- Paul: DNR and DATCP will announce a plan sometime in early 2015 on phosphorus control around the state. No other details available yet.
- Buzz: There will be a presentation at the next St. Croix River implementation team meeting about tracking tools for best management practices. This information may also be relevant to the Red Cedar implementation strategy.
- Andrew: Offered his assistance as the implementation plan moves forward. Mentioned that a statewide initiative on providing money for farmer-led councils is still up in the air and is not sure where it will go from here.
- Nels: Had talked with the Chamber of Commerce chair in Menomonie about getting involved in the Partnership. She will investigate the possibility and get back to Nels.
- Tom: A video is going to be made about the farmer-led council efforts in NW Wisconsin, with funding provided by the McKnight Foundation grant going toward this project. It will be a short, 4-5 minute video explaining the councils and the project.
- Dan P: Is looking at small watersheds to use as "pilots" in trying to inventory the needs for land treatments and best management practices, and probable costs and timelines. Intends to apply this to broader inventory for the implementation plan. Is also going to go through EPA's "Nine Elements" with his county committee so they become familiar with the process and better understand the county's role.
- Tim: Tyler, Tim and Julia are still working on a Barron County farmer-led council, and will be meeting with key people toward this effort on 11/10. There is still \$15,000 available from leftover Farm Tech Days funding, that has been allocated to a farmer-led council.
- Amanda: Latest offer for cover crop seeding in Dunn Co went over well, and should be better next fall with more preparation and marketing.

- Randy: The low-impact development/minimum impact design standards agreement between the City of Menomonie and a Twin Cities consulting firm has been signed, meaning the firm will work with Menomonie to bring LID/MIDS to the city and work to establish runoff controls that meet these standards. The update to the City's storm water management plan has been completed. Also a bank stabilization project on Jarret Creek will begin soon.
- Steve: Dunn Co's budget committee has approved \$90,000 for a water quality specialist position, and earmarked \$100,000 for matches on local grants for water quality projects. The county is also working on better land management for runoff in the Jarret Creek watershed.
- Ron: Suggested that some of Rod's video footage of the rivers in the watershed may work for the farmer-led council educational film. Also gave a brief update mentioning that the Red Cedar River Conference planning committee has begun meeting to plan next year's conference.
- Mike: Provided the following comments via e-mail, since he was unable to attend: "We are expecting that 3M Real Estate will begin working on a new land lease agreement for 2015 that will be for hay crops only. We have had inquiries from interested parties for the acreage and expect we will have a new lease in place by planting season next year. Our Wild at Work Team (Wildlife Habitat Council certified program) is planning an Earth Day Fair for our employees at our plant on Tuesday, April 7, from 10:30 - 1:30 pm. We will probably ask TMLIA if they would be interested in a display. With over 700 employees here at the facility this could be a good venue to publicize/communicate our committee efforts to our employees. Comments or questions let me know. Hopefully I can attend some of the November meeting in Menomonie. Our prairie plot that Dan P helped us with a few years ago with an erosion control project is seeded in pretty well. This plot adjoins our wetlands that drain into Lake Menomin."

Discussion of Work Plan and Table of Contents: Dan Z had sent draft copies of a new work plan and a table of contents to the group the previous week for their review. Feedback was provided on both and Dan took notes to make changes or to keep changes in mind as things progress. One topic that received significant discussion was the timeframe of the plan. It was decided that the plan would be written for a ten year timeframe, recognizing that more would likely need to be done after ten years.

Discussion of Chapter 1 Draft: Dan Z had sent a draft of Chapter 1 to the group the previous week. A discussion took place regarding changes to this draft. Dan took notes and will make the appropriate changes and send to the group in the next few weeks.

Needs for Chapter 2: Dan Z will be working on a draft of Chapter 2 for the next meeting, and discussed with the group any needs for this chapter that could be served by input from the group. Most of the material in Chapter 2 will be pulled from the TMDL and from the previous rough draft of a plan. Paul offered to provide some input in a separate meeting between now and the next Partnership meeting.

Evaluation: Although an evaluation of the meeting was on the agenda, Dan Z neglected to get to this as the meeting ended. But offering everyone the chance to evaluate the meeting is an important part of the Partnership's process, and will be included at the next meeting.

Next Meeting: The Partnership's next meeting will be Wednesday, November 12th in Menomonie.