

# Red Cedar River Water Quality Partnership Meeting Minutes

6/10/15 Barron County Government Center, Barron, WI

**Present at the meeting:** Dan Prestebak – Dunn County LCD; Tyler Gruetzmacher – Barron County LCD; Rod Olson – Desair Lake Association; Randy Eide – City of Menomonie; Nels Paulson – UW Stout; Ron Verdon – Tainter Menomin Lake Improvement Association; Julia Olmstead, Dan Zerr-UW-Extension.

**Review of Last Meeting and Current Agenda:** Meeting minutes from the May meeting were reviewed, with no changes. Agenda for the day was also reviewed with no significant changes.

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

- Dan Z: At the last meeting Dan agreed to inquire of some of the partners as well as others peripheral to the Partnership, if the pursuit of an RCPP grant through NRCS had much support. He informed the group that little support was found, and that issues with not being able to use such a grant for staffing was an issue. He also shared a document (about which Julia also shared some comments) from a group called the Wisconsin Center for Agriculture and Environmental Resources (WiCAER), which appears to be a 501c3 non-profit affiliated with Discovery Farms, focused on farmer-led councils. Some discussion of this group took place.
- Nels: The ten REU students will be coming to Stout on Sunday. There will be a welcome reception for them Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup> at 4 PM at the Raw Deal in Menomonie. The date has also been set for their poster and wrap-up reception at the Raw Deal. It will be held Wednesday, August 5<sup>th</sup> at 5 PM.
- Julia: Had a Hay River FLC meeting on 6/9 at the cover crop test plots in the watershed. There are 18 acres that include 15 plots (strips). The plots are testing conventional tillage versus no-till, and cover crops versus no cover. There will be a quarterly newsletter for all 4 FLCs coming soon. Cooperator signs will also be coming soon. Talks are underway with Dan Masterpole in Chippewa Co about another FLC possibly coming together in the Trout Creek watershed that straddles Chippewa and Dunn Counties. Also, there will be a field day on tile drainage to be held Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM in Barron.
- Tyler: LCD staff started working on the transect survey for Barron County this week.
- Rod: Helped Barron County Historical Society build a large rain garden at Pioneer Village, to catch runoff from rooftops and parking lots, and is working on some other rain garden projects as well. Also working with a film maker on an educational movie on water quality, funded by the WLWCA. Also, Gabe Brown, a soil health proponent from North Dakota, may be a speaker at next year's Red Cedar Conference.
- Dan P: The Dunn County sportsmen's alliance has hired an intern, who has created a map of the Red Cedar Demonstration Farm, showing what is being grown and where, where soil

samples have been taken, etc. The County is the owner of the land, but Chippewa Valley Technical College is renting the land, and this has caused a few issues regarding how the land is managed, mostly regarding the lower pH of some of the soils. A weather station will be up and running soon on the land. A field day will be taking place on September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Also the County is moving forward with a groundwater monitoring project to monitor conventional wells. Farmers in the Hay River FLC may site some of the monitoring on their wells.

- Ron: TMLIA will have a newsletter coming out next month and may be interviewing some members of the partnership for input. TMLIA will be giving their Good Neighbor award to Buzz Sorge at the annual meeting on August 8<sup>th</sup> at the Raw Deal in Menomonie. Also, TMLIA is working hard with legislators to remove the policy provision from the proposed budget that states that no local buffer/shoreland ordinance go beyond the restrictions in NR 115.
- Randy: The City of Menomonie's ordinance regarding low impact development and minimum design standards (LID/MIDS) for storm water has been written. The city attorney has some questions about it. A DNR grant has been applied for by the city that will be used to create a regional storm water pond in collaboration with Dunn County. The grant would be awarded later this year, with construction to begin in 2016.

**Discussion of Draft Plan:** The group offered some more suggestions and edits to the plan, and Dan Z took notes on these changes and will incorporate them into the document. Dan is waiting for comments from Andrew Craig, and once those are received and other edits are added, the document should be very near ready for submitting to DNR/EPA. The goal is to have that done by mid-July.

**Discussion of Transition from Planning Team to Implementation Team:** This discussion was begun at last month's meeting. The Partnership decided that meeting every other month for now would be good. If we find that this is too much or not enough, we can modify the meeting schedule. Dan Z agreed to solicit a "check in" from everyone in the off months, compile that, and share it with the group via e-mail. The group also discussed producing a "governing document" that would be a one-page document that would feature a purpose statement and other guidelines that the group uses in their work. Dan Z agreed to solicit input from the Partnership via e-mail and begin to draft such a document. It will also be helpful in any PowerPoint presentations the Partnership will be doing for other stakeholders or potential Partnership members.

**Evaluation:** An evaluation of the meeting was conducted, with each Partnership member rating the meeting from 1 (worst) to 5 (best). If anything less than a 5 was given, the person was asked to elaborate on the gaps that caused a lower rating. Everyone present rated it a 5.

**Next Meeting:** The Partnership's next meeting will begin the bi-monthly meeting schedule. It will be held on Wednesday, August 5<sup>th</sup> in Menomonie at 3 PM. The reason for the different time versus the usual second Wednesday at 9 AM is because the summer-ending reception for the REU students will be that day in Menomonie at the Raw Deal at 5 PM, so this will give everyone a chance to be at both the meeting and the reception.