

Red Cedar River Water Quality Partnership Meeting Outcomes

10/6/21 Meeting held via Zoom due to Covid19 pandemic

Present at the meeting: Chase Cummings – Dunn County Land Conservation; Liz Usborne, Alex Smith – DNR; Tyler Gruetzmacher – Barron Co LCD; Jamey Ladeen – Chetek Lakes Association; Nick Stadnik – Rusk Co Land Conservation; Tina Lee – UW-Stout; Gerry Johnson – Red Cedar Lakes Association; Brad Luedtke – 3M Corporation; Dan Zerr – UW-Extension

Review of minutes of last meeting and current agenda: The outcomes from the August meeting were discussed with no changes and the current agenda was discussed with no changes.

Check-In and Discussion: Everyone shared any new information/developments pertinent to the Red Cedar River Watershed effort.

Gerry: Surveys of curly-leaf pondweed show about 2.5 acres of CLP this year. It has been up to 50 acres in the past, so control measures are working. A study of turions in the sediment is happening now. Work is being done to control purple loosestrife in some areas. Surveys of shoreline vegetation have led to some healthy lakes grant projects. Clean Boats Clean Waters education work continues. Water quality testing has been ongoing for years. Big Chetac Lake continues to be a major source of incoming phosphorus (about 2,400 lbs/yr), with other smaller tributaries also contributing. Some of those have a surprising amount of farmland in their watersheds that could be targets for conservation practices.

Brad: 3M has done some invasive plant removal in areas just off I-94. They are also expanding some prairie restoration with seeding, and there could be more of that in the future.

Tina: Stout is moving forward on expanding environmental science curriculum. The LAKES REU group will be recruiting in the next few months for students for summer 2022. The Freshwater Collaborative within the UW system will distribute money to universities for various projects. Applications have to be in by December 1 and money spent by end of June 2022 (probably in the neighborhood of a few hundred thousand dollars for Stout).

Dan Z: Reminded everyone of the manure grant RFP sent around a few weeks back. Mentioned the recent donation by Rod and Carol Olson of land next to Desair Lake to the Rice Lake School District to be used for educational purposes. Gabe Brown is coming to the area (Polk Co) for a two-day workshop May 25-26, with registration open for 60 people.

Chase: Steve Olson is working on some soil sampling, nitrate tests, and cover crops on demo farms. Both farmer-led groups within Dunn Co have applied for DATCP grants. Recently presented to the Town of Colfax on nitrate in groundwater issues in the area. Mentioned that Rick Clark may likely be a speaker at next year's Red Cedar River Conference in March. Friends of the Red Cedar River Basin group is

seriously looking into starting a Lake District for Lake Tainter. Further developments will be coming with this soon. Chase will likely be the only attendee at from Dunn Co at our meetings from now on.

Jamey: Wrapping up surface water grants currently. Five landing sign updates have been completed. Eight healthy lakes projects are still underway. There were a high number of visitors at the lakes this summer with lots of opportunities for education. Association is currently planning for 2022.

Nick: Trying to ramp up some invasive species ID and mapping. A lake protection program may be starting up in Rusk County using County funding.

Alex: Surface water grant preapplications were due last month. Working on those. Full applications are due in November. Cumberland and Beaver Dam Lake District are planning more stormwater runoff work for urban stormwater issues. There are also some invasive species project applications. One application is from the Friends of the Red Cedar Basin group wanting to do some lake treatments with alum in specific areas.

Liz: Shared some data about the TRM and runoff grants. \$9 million was requested through applications, but only able to award about \$4 million, so many projects were not awarded. Geographically, eastern WI seemed to get a bit more funding than western WI. Has three current enforcement actions happening in the Red Cedar watershed.

Tyler: Working with a producer on the Dunn Co line on some barnyard runoff issues. Rotational grazing seems to be a possible solution for the producer. County groundwater study looks like it is moving forward. It will be a two-year project with about 400 samples per year. Groundwater center at Stevens Point will be helping. Will be for 2022-2023. A couple different cover crop plantings happened recently at the new demo farm. Has been a good season for cover crops this year. One large dairy operation in the county is putting in a four-mile long manure transfer line, which should help minimize spill issues.

Evaluation: All attendees still remaining at the end of the meeting ranked the meeting on a scale of 1-5, with 5 being the best, with most ranking the meeting a 5, with a few at 4.9, mostly because of low attendance.

Next Meeting: The Partnership's next regular meeting date is **Wednesday, December 1**. Dan will check with everyone a few weeks before the meeting to see if meeting in person is possible, and if so, where the meeting should be held. If not, it will be via Zoom again.