



August 2017



The latest news from the Waterford Waterway Management District (WWMD)

CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE **ECO SYSTEM (DREDGING)** **AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT (WEEDS)** **FIX THE FOX** **DNR WATER REPORT** **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**
page 1 page 1 page 1 page 4 page 4 page 4

CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

ECO SYSTEM (Dredging) PROJECT

Can you believe that August is here already? Where has the summer gone?

My message today is to let you know that I work with a great board! As residents of the WWMD community, you need to know about the large commitment of time that these people put in for the well-being of our waterway. The countless meetings, phone calls and emails mean hours and hours of volunteer time spent to make our water better for all to use and enjoy. We cannot please everyone all the time, but the efforts to do so are unending. I am taking this opportunity to thank them all. Without them, I cannot even imagine where the district would be.

Inside this newsletter, you will find great articles and updates from various committees. Take time to read them. I hope you will find them interesting as well as informative.

Don't forget our Annual Meeting is September 23rd at 9:00 a.m at Waterford High School. All information regarding the meeting will be forthcoming. Mark your calendars!

See you in September,

Barbara Baron
Chairperson, WWMD

There have been many questions concerning the latest status of the dredging project. Started in 2009, we have come a long way since the beginning. While we have had major setbacks, the ESR committee is working very hard to see this through.

Much has/has not happened with the DNR in pursuit of these last permits since the public meeting at the end of February. The DNR is backtracking, looking at different regulations, and we're suddenly on a different path than they have led us down for the last 3 years.

There have been personnel changes, dozens of phone calls to all levels of the DNR, Graef Engineering, and outside resources, and over

a hundred emails. Graef, the ESR committee, Barb Baron, and others are on top of this, trying to figure out just what the DNR wants and the reasonableness of getting there.

This report will only touch on the high points that are currently affecting this project.

Here is what has happened since February.

The DNR started by holding a public meeting for the Low Hazard Exemption Permit, considered one of the last steps before approval. Shortly thereafter, they began reassessing the permit and started to look at things that did not seem to be worrisome before. Suddenly the liner and existing concentrations of

compounds in the sediment were no longer allowed.

Because of these "new" requirements, the permit was going to be denied by the DNR. We were allowed to pull the application, saving the \$500 fee and the stigma that goes along with rejection. It was agreed that we could reapply once we met the DNR requirements (we had previously done so in order to be able to apply the first time).

After several months of letters and dozens of calls, the DNR assigned another liaison and someone who could actually understand the science of what is going on. Finally, after intense pressure (thanks Barb Baron), another conference

More DREDGING, Page 2

AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT (APM) ACTIVITIES

The challenge with controlling the weed growth in our waterway continues. The early thaw and late cooler temperatures have led to an unusual pattern of weed growth.

APM Activities for 2017 started early on four fronts;

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) survey and treatments.

We surveyed the waterway for AIS at the end of April

and completed the treatment in early May. In total we treated approximately 125 acres. The map of the treated areas can be seen at our website.

Herbicidal treatments to aid navigation.

The WDNR allows us to treat 30 ft. wide lanes to a pier head where there is heavy weed growth. The first treatment of the season was completed on May 22nd with

a follow up on Jun 21st. Interactive maps showing lanes treated can be seen at our website.

Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH).

We will be starting the DASH program again this year at the beginning of July. This technique removes the whole plant and roots to open up clear lanes. This season we will be working in

More WEEDS Page 3



ECO SYSTEM (Dredging) PROJECT *continued*

DREDGING, From Page 1

call was held on July 19th, between the DNR, Graef, and the WWMD. The main points of contention for the last several months--arsenic, pit lining, and ammonia were discussed, and there was some movement forward. We now have to provide plans and costs to separately dredge and dispose of sediment in certain areas. There was consensus on the lining. We also have to go back and research different disposal methods to handle elevated ammonia levels. Yes, it is up to us to develop the a la carte plan from which they can choose.

A lot of the sticking points are technical and involve regulations, so it is taking time to work through. It is not just a matter of working harder, or adding more people. We act quickly to their comments and questions, but it has taken weeks for them to respond. It's hard to come to a solution when the target is moving, or there is a wall of stone due to situations that do not apply directly to us. That has led to more rounds of more of the same - time after time. It's hoped that a new schedule of calls will move this along.

Then there is the political side of the DNR's ability / willingness to actually approve this project. There is intense pressure, and litigation, concerning ground water in other parts of the state.

So what are we doing?

Graef continues to fight for reasonableness and common sense. Most of their time has not been spent on the engineering itself, but navigating the regulations, comments and changes of direction.

We have contacted outside engineering firms, water resource experts, and the UWM Great Lakes Water Institute / School of Freshwater Science. It is almost to the point where we are documenting the research for the DNR. The county and The FRC are in the picture because of the path we were diverted to.

Should we not make real progress in the near future, we're gathering our thoughts as to how to utilize our legislative and legal resources should we need to go beyond the DNR for support and resolution. We have talked to Representatives Robin Vos and Chuck Wighers as well as Senator David Craig. We're determining how to best involve legal counsel if needed.

In addition, information, education, and financing move forward.

QUESTIONS

What permits do we have approved? How long are they good for?

Wildlife – permission to use DNR lands – Expired - we need to renew letter of permission.

Wetlands permission to cross wetlands – Expires 8/31/19

Dredging -- Expires 7/27/2019

What happens when they expire?

We have the ability to extend each for 5 years. Should we be nearing that point, it would reflect deeply on the DNR's ability to get this project approved. We would take action long before then and not allow them to simply expire.

What permits do we still need to get? When can we reasonably hope to submit

them?

“Carriage Water” permit (water returned to the river) – already submitted – DNR wants to issue this permit at the same time as the “Site Dewatering” permit.

“Site Dewatering” permit - already submitted once, then pulled (see above). The DNR is now determining if this should be covered under a Low Hazard Waste Exemption Permit or a Solid Waste Permit. This determination is based on materials dredged, and is site independent, so it would apply to any final disposal site we use.

It is unknown at what point the DNR will feel that the technical points are addressed enough to let us resubmit the “Site

Dewatering” permit for a second time. Maybe the larger question is - when will the DNR feel secure enough to be isolated from future scrutiny or litigation?

What is status of request to dredge deeper than 5 feet? The DNR approved going deeper than 5 feet, down to hardpan, with the approval of the Dredging Permit.

What are our latest thoughts on disposal/ dewatering sites? Is Super Mix still a possibility? Other options?

The SuperMix site is still the main disposal site. It is not likely that we will be able to use the DNR land at the north end of the waterway, even though we have permission to do so. The same is true for the DeGrave pit because of the latest direction received from the DNR.

We are assessing the “what ifs” that have popped up and are eyeing alternates to the current plan should it be

rejected. However, we're only “brainstorming” at this point.

Are we still expecting to pipe the material, or is trucking back on the table?

Piping is still the only practical way to move sediment to the dewatering site and get the carriage (de-sedimentized) water back to the river. Shallow water levels prohibit mechanical dredging to any great extent.

If trucking were involved, we would still have to dewater the sediment and pipe the water back to the river. This would greatly lengthen the project's timeline and add costs.

We would still need to have a suitable disposal site where the trucks would deliver the material. The closest landfill is 16 miles away from any likely dewatering location. That would require over 40,000 semi truck loads to move the dewatered material. That would translate to approximately one truck every 40 minutes, 24/7 for three straight years.

Best guesses on timelines.

The way we are progressing, I would suggest 2020 is our earliest start date. Past performance does not dictate future progress. Making assumptions on timelines without background information cannot support a final date projection.

Our timeline is based upon defined steps, each having its own set of tasks: permit approvals, site design based on permit requirements, landowner agreements, bid packages, bidding, vote, fundraising, site preparation, dredging, dewatering, reclamation, and paying the final bill. Things can happen consecutively or concurrently.

This latest turn of events for permits has delayed a

ECO SYSTEM (Dredging) PROJECT *continued*

DREDGING, From Page 2

completion date, but does not mean that it will stretch out the steps beyond permitting. Timing on many of these steps is already known, such as engineering, bidding and dredging. For others, we are waiting on outside events (i.e., state budget approval), to be able to determine when they will happen.

Thus, we do not have enough information for this report to make projections as to where we will be at what time in the future. This does not mean that we are not working on them, but the ramifications of some of the most recent changes are taking time to identify, let alone resolve. There is no timeline for a timeline.

Ask the DNR how long the permits are going to take. As for fundraising, ask the donors.

Can my neighbors and I pay for additional dredging by our piers?

We believe so, with qualifications. According to

Senator Craig, riparians will be able to apply for a permit to do this work. Each will be responsible for meeting all of the requirements of the permit, and costs, including disposal. WWMD will not directly be involved, and we will not "piggyback" this work into our project. We do not know if it will be possible to add this to the volume going to the pit, but we will investigate.

How much total money have we spent on dredging so far? How much has been reimbursed in grants?

According to WWMD Treasurer Margret Shoptaw, the project has cost us \$324,646 so far. That includes engineering, meetings, postage, outreach, printing and publications, thru April 2017. The identifiable grants total \$197,418.

What is going on around us?

The Illinois Fox is dredged of about 60,000 yards a year under a state run project.

Dredging Wisconsin rivers is not new. The upper Fox in the EPA'S PCB remediation project cost \$1 billion, years of time, and 100% landfill. Obviously money is no object.

That is not the case with us. We're doing this alone with a handful of VOLUNTEERS. This is the largest project that SE Wisconsin has ever seen, and it is breaking new ground as to objectives, location and hurdles. Delays, side tracking, and rejections should not be the state's normal operating procedure, but it is. Our size doesn't dictate the attention, time, money, or effort of the big guys.

In Conclusion

This District was formed in 2003 with the objective to dredge and clean up the waterway. The committee is committed to see this through. This report represents the current state of the project. It is frustrating that it is taking so long. We're trying to keep the cost of this needed work under

control, considering the limited sources of financing.

For those with unanswered comments or questions, contact Don Baron or Paul Kling or write us at: info@waterfordwwmd.com

We are looking for volunteers to assist, and if you have talents in legal, business, accounting, finance, fundraising, or other areas, we will gladly accept your time and effort to help us get this done.

Additional information on this project can be found at:

WDNR Water Permit Application Site
<http://waterfordwwmd.com/committees/ecosystem-restoration-project>

Visit our Website at:
<http://waterfordwwmd.com>

UPCOMING MONTHLY MEETINGS

**4TH THURSDAY OF THE MONTH
7PM — TOWN HALL**

AUGUST 24

ANNUAL MEETING

9AM — WATERFORD UNION HIGH SCHOOL

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

**4TH SATURDAY OF THE MONTH
9AM — TOWN HALL**

OCTOBER 28—NOVEMBER 18

AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT (APM) ACTIVITIES *continued*

WEEDS, From Page 1

Island View Bay, the south end of Buena Lake, the bay in the southwest corner of Lake Tichigan and the bay west of the opening into Lake Tichigan. Details on the progress will be posted to the Website as the project continues.

Over winter drawdown.

This technique was originally recommended to us by our treatment provider, Wisconsin Lake and Ponds Resources, and was supported by the WDNR. It is a cost effective approach, with minimal risk that helps with AIS control, sediment compaction and allows

homeowners to complete personal dredging and shoreline restoration. Our permit was approved early in 2017 and communications to homeowners and local businesses began and dates for Public meetings were being planned. In April, the Board decided to stop the implementation of this for the 2017-18 winter season. In a close vote (4-3), concerns over the possible impact on the Ecosystem Restoration project and resolutions from the Town, Village and SEWFRC outweighed the benefits and large cost savings of this technique.

Mike Waghorn
APM Chairman

DNR WATER REPORT

High river flows and out-of-bank flooding due to recent storm events are contributing to unusual conditions seen on the Fox River and the Waterford impoundment. Citizens are reporting dead fish in high numbers throughout the waterway. Summer conditions for fish are always stressful, with warm water contributing to lower dissolved oxygen levels. The recent floods washed an enormous amount of sediment and associated nutrients from the landscape into the river, producing oxygen sags (confirmed by recent sampling) as this new material is digested by natural bacteria. These stressful low-oxygen conditions, along with the large influx of warm surface water and other possible pollutants, are likely

responsible for the fish kills observed. Additionally, these conditions can be responsible for the septic odors reported by some.

Sampling on the Fox River by DNR Staff did not show a blue-green algae bloom in that area as of Monday July 24th. More tests on the waterway by WWMD confirmed we do not have an algae problem. As water levels recede and warm temperatures return, continued vigilance for blooms and common sense are encouraged. Swimmers should avoid paint-like surface scums and ingesting river/lake water, as well as rinse off after exiting the water.

Questions can be directed to the Department of Natural Resources, either by calling 262-884-2357, or by e-mail at craig.helker@wi.gov.



Waterford Waterway
Management District

Post Office Box 416
Waterford, WI 53185

Postal Customer



Attach a rake head to a 10' length of a 1¼" diameter PVC pipe to make your own weed rake.

FIX THE FOX

As summer progresses we continue pushing ahead with our external fund raising efforts for our ecosystem restoration (ESR), i.e. dredging project. Our goal is to maximize financial support from external sources. In our early efforts, we have met with federal, state and local agencies to build awareness and knowledge of our ESR project and will continue to do so as we lobby for funding. To date, we have met with the Racine County Executive and his team on multiple occasions, Representative Wichgers and his team, Representative Paul Ryan's team, and the Army Corps of Engineers. This will continue and expand as we move forward.

Beyond public sources, we have a potential Grantor list of over one hundred organizations we are researching and prioritizing, so that we are prepared and focused on the highest potential

sources. We need to understand every potential Grantor to the maximum extent possible (e.g. mission, passion, priorities, criteria, timeline, process, etc.).

With millions of potential projects to invest in, why should a potential Grantor choose the "Fix the Fox" project? The important elements of our Case Statement (business plan) will provide the following:

1. Broad perspective, including the history of the waterway and the role of the WWMD.
2. Project details, including ESR (dredging) objectives, costs, timeline and risk management; beneficiaries of our results, both quantitative and qualitative, and community impact.
3. Connecting the "Fix the Fox" project to the Grantor's mission, explaining why the Grantor should support us and the benefits they will see in return for

their investment. Every Grantor wants to invest in winners and we are laying out our winning Case Statement.

Once we have the final ESR costs and timeline, we can begin aggressively pursuing Grantors and accelerate the lobbying efforts with public officials.

Since we are not experts in fundraising, we also have engaged experienced consultants to advise us on all aspects of the fundraising efforts to assure an effective campaign.

Last and certainly not the least is a HUGE Thank You!!! to all of the dedicated volunteers driving our fundraising efforts...they are THE reason we are as far down the road as we are. If anyone has useful fundraising connections, or would just simply like to help the effort, please let us know.

Dave Spurlock, Chairman
dspurloc2@wi.rr.com

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We are in need of help as we move forward with "Fixing the Fox and Keeping It Fixed"

Specifically we need several committee volunteers with the following areas of expertise:

- Supply Chain
- Business
- Accounting
- Purchasing
- Environmental – State & Federal EPA
- Legal
- Project Management – PMP Certification preferred

These are volunteer positions with no compensation other than the satisfaction of making a contribution to "Fixing the Fox".

If interested please contact Barbara Baron at 1-847-223-7828 or at bbaron@agencypromogroup.com