



Waterford Waterway
Management District

Post Office Box 416
Waterford, WI 53185

PRESORTED
FIRST-CLASS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MELROSE PARK, IL
PERMIT NO. 50

Waterford Waterway Management District

Changing our world · One drop at a time.



Spring Newsletter • May 1, 2019

FIX the FOX

CHAIRWOMAN'S MESSAGE

Hello to all,
Spring is here! It has been a long and difficult winter but finally the temperatures are rising. The water is open and I see ducks and geese enjoying the arrival of spring as well as all of us.

The WWMD has reached a huge milestone with the approval of first dredging project by the DNR and the Army Corp for our waterway. My sincerest thanks to all who have worked for years to obtain these approvals.

Make sure to read both the earlier newsletter and our web site to learn more. There will be informational meetings throughout the coming months to inform our residents of the project. Please try to attend.

I wish everyone a safe and wonderful summer and encourage everyone to attend our monthly meetings. If you are interested in being a volunteer please call me.

AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT (APM)

AKA – 'What about the Weeds'

These past several months we have been working diligently to update our lake management plan (LMP) as required every 10 years by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). This is necessary in order for the WWMD to receive permitting for weed control as well as for other projects such as dredging and/or drawdowns.

In order to do this effectively, we are using a consulting firm, Onterra, which is helping us prepare an acceptable plan. One of the major tasks of collecting an immense amount of actual data that supports our overall plan was completed last year. Our committee, made up of a representative group of riparian owners and current board members, and with the guidance of Onterra professionals, are working to complete this plan in the next few months. Once completed, it will contain actual goals and action plans to address the issues of our waterways in a holistic approach both now and into the future. The draft plan will be available on our website later in the summer and we will hold an informational meeting for everyone, led by Onterra representatives.

On another note, towards the end of April, the water in many areas turned a green color. A sample collected by Greg Horeth was given to Onterra to determine what the cause was. On initial inspection by Onterra, it was suspected that it is a Planktonic Algae and they will have it tested. Results of this test will be posted to our Website once received.

We will be continuing our Herbicidal treatments this season. The permit application has been submitted to the WDNR by our provider of this service, Wisconsin Lake & Pond Resources. The AIS (invasive species plants) treatment will be in May as the weather permits. When spraying takes place, notification cards will be affixed to docks as is the standard operating procedure. Navigation treatments which are tightly controlled by the WDNR can only be used when navigation to a pier head are restricted. Thus these will be done as the need arises throughout the season.

because of costs and maximizing yields. The ideal average amount of phosphorus per acre is about 50 parts per million. Frost Farms owned and operated by Spencer and Stewart Frost, is located on Bridge Drive. It is a major milk producer in our area with the majority of their crops grown to feed their milk herd. Their big crop is corn for silage and they use liquid manure as a key source of fertilizer. Yes it smells, but it is natural phosphorus. Again, applications are monitored so the correct amounts are applied vs. what many think is just "a dump as much as they can" on the fields" program.

We approached Spencer and Stewart as part of our ongoing management efforts to address a potential source of phosphorous from the field on the south side of N. Tichigan Rd. and how we could work together with them to minimize the effects of runoff from the field that eventually finds its way into our waterway (by the way, that field is testing out at about 25 parts per million, well below what it should be).

Both Spencer and Stewart believe in being not only excellent dairy farmers, but also good stewards of the land and welcomed neighbors. As a result of our discussions and as part of their planned land management program, the field in question will be put into alfalfa for the next 3-5 years. This offers a natural filtration as a cover crop and alfalfa naturally absorbs phosphorous out of the soil. When the Frosts determine it is time to rotate their field into another crop, they will be leaving a 60 ft. wide filter strip along N. Tichigan Rd. to continue abating runoff.

This is a win/win for both the Frosts and our waterway. So, we thank Frost Farms for stepping forward and working with us.

Finally, our Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH) program will also continue this season. We have been using DASH for weed removal in the shallow bays for the last few seasons. ECO Waterway services will continue to be our provider for this service and they have applied for the permit. The exact areas that will be worked on will be determined once we see the weed growth.

THE ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION AND REHABILITATION PROGRAM (ESR)

As mentioned in our previous newsletter, the Waterford Waterway Management District (WWMD) plans and approvals for phase 1 of our Ecosystem Restoration and Rehabilitation Program are now in-place to dredge and spread between 7,000 and 9,000 cubic yards of dredged and dewatered sediment on farm fields owned by the WDNR. This two-year proof of concept undertaking forms the foundation for the much larger program. The WWMD has retained Graef Engineering to finalize engineering, specifications and documents and to oversee the bidding for this first phase of our program.

Current key projected milestones are:

- August 2019; Bids go out
- October 2019; Bids due and are opened, letter of intent subject to approval
- October 2019 – May 2020; Fund raising, Preparation, Approval
- May 2020 – October 2020; Dredging, if approved

We continue seeking outside funding to cover the entire cost of phase 1, which is estimated to be between \$1.2 and \$1.8 million. It is the intent of the WWMD not to have riparian owners shoulder the financial responsibility for phase 1 if at all possible.

Further details can be found in the ESR minutes of the WWMD monthly board meetings. Additionally regular updates on the Ecosystem Restoration and Rehabilitation Program can be found on the District's website at www.waterfordwwmd.com. Regular program updates at key milestones will also be provided directly to riparian owners, the local community and key local, county, state and federal officials

2019 WATERWAY BUOY PROGRAM

The Waterford Water Management District (WWMD) is once again pleased to share that the Waterford Police Department along with the DNR will be assisting with the coordination of the buoy placement, maintenance and monitoring for the upcoming 2019 "Waterway" season.

Much effort goes into the planning and coordinating of the buoy management and this year, as in past years, we are going to be looking to all the Riparian owners for your assistance and support when it comes to managing the buoy efforts. **They are vital for effective navigational and safety reasons for all using the water.** This year's plan will be to place buoys into the waterways during the month of **April** and they will be removed again in **October**.

Here are some things to consider:

- **If you see damage being caused by individuals not respecting the waterways, report it to the Police immediately, hopefully with a vehicle number. They will act on this and there is a "Reward" of \$1,000 for anyone who reports damage being caused that can be verified and a citation being issued to the offender.**
- **From time to time buoy's drift in the current or move for other reasons. If this occurs please report this as well so we are able to relocate them to the correct location**
- **"Own your Own Buoy", the WWMD in the past helped coordinate a program where Riparian owners could sponsor a buoy that we would insure had their name on it for the season. The costs were fairly nominal and was a great way for people to share their commitment to the waterway, and show friends and neighbors:**
 - **Is there Riparian Owner out there that would like to assist with this? If so, please feel free to contact Greg Horeth (WWMD Commissioner) at gjhoreth@aol.com or call at 847-652-2759**

While the waterways are monitored and patrolled by the Waterford Police and the DNR, these are our waterways and so all of us have a responsibility to assist in taking care of what is so very important to all of us.

Let's make this a great season on the water and we appreciate all your assistance and involvement in making this happen.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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:

- Marketing
- Fund raising
- Social media
- Writing
- Limnology
- Environmental – state & federal EPA,
- Legal
- Project management



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 1-847-921-9087 or at bbaron@agencypromogroup.com

FOX RIVER SUMMIT

The Fox River, our scenic urban waterway is truly the crowning jewel of southeast Wisconsin, and conserving, protecting and improving our waterway is our focus and mission.

March 22nd several members of the WWMD attended the 7th Annual Fox River Summit. This day-long event was full of great information about the challenges and opportunities that the WWMD and the Fox River have. It is also a great venue for learning and networking.

Among our challenges we have a serious problem with erosion and runoff which affects the water quality in our waterway, we can all remember the flood of 2008. Runoff carries phosphates from fertilizers, which in turn promotes the growth of weeds and algae. Fantastic volunteers have put in a lot of effort to mitigate this problem, and we were thrilled to learn that a number of solutions to the underlying problem have been put forward. For example, several farmers have been introducing cover crops. These not only positively impact crop yields, but they also slow erosion, slow runoff and filter chemicals out before they reach our waterway.

FROST FARMS TO ASSIST THE WWMD

As you may remember from a recent bulletin distributed to riparian owners and others in our communities, phosphorous is the largest contributor to river and lake pollution issues. Phosphorous is a natural non-metallic element found in soil and white phosphorus is primarily used in fertilizers, critical to crop production.

So why the explanation? Many who may not be knowledgeable about the farming industry today are quick to blame farmers for all the pollution issues in our lake, rivers and streams. While it may be a contributor in part, it is not on the whole. Progressive farmers today are involved in managing fertilizer use through crop rotation and land management programs. Soil conditions and content are regularly checked for percentages of elements including phosphorous so that one, the correct mix is on the fields and two, that the correct amounts are being used. Farmers try to use as little fertilizers as possible on their fields