



"Saving the world, one drop at a time"

Waterford Waterway Management District

Post Office Box 416

Waterford, Wisconsin 53185

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WATER TALK

Fall 2013



Waterford Waterway Management District

Changing the world, one drop at a time

Chairman's Message



Hello All:

Waterford Waterway Management District (WWMD) is preparing for the annual meeting, scheduled for Saturday, September 21st, 2013. Please see the insert for more details; I encourage district members to attend;

WWMD volunteers continue to work toward the WWMD mission, donating many hours and sharing knowledge with others.

In review of the past year, WWMD continues building relationships and increased collaboration between governing bodies, as well as preservation and restoration groups. Examples include the 2013 Fox River Summit, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), Southeastern Wisconsin Fox River Commission (SEWFRC), Citizens Against Underwater Silt and Erosion (C.A.U.S.E.). In addition, the WWMD has provided several learning opportunities for district members, and adjoining waterway communities.

The Fox River Summit is a consortium and forum to "establish a linkage between the interests of Wisconsin and Illinois for the sustainable use, management and protection of our shared water resources within the Fox River watershed". The summit efforts address watershed issues and planning opportunities. In addition, Wisconsin Lakes is launching a major effort to battle the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS), and prevent new invasive species from establishing in Wisconsin.

Collaboration with the Department of Natural Resources and other groups leads to identification of key elements necessary to control the AIS problem.

Best regards,
Kelly

Quote of the Season:

"Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better."
Albert Einstein

Educational Opportunities

Get the latest news as it happens! Want to know where we're treating for weeds? Would you like to hear what's happening with the dredging project as it happens? Sign up for email newsletter delivery on our website and you will also receive regular email updates from the WWMD. If you haven't seen the website recently, we're making it easier to find what you're looking for and updating it with the latest information. Check out waterford-waterway.com and see what's happening at the WWMD today.

Chamber Balloon Fest - WWMD had a booth. The turn out was exceptional and reception to educate people about the feasibility study was well received.

Chamber Pontoon Tour - On 8-8-13 WWMD, enjoyed educating the Chamber members, dignitaries and WDNR why navigation and clean water in our district waterway is of economic value to the community.

Commissioners

Kelly Cornelius
(Chairman - Town of Waterford Appointed)
5201 Riverside Road
Waterford, WI 53185
(262) 534-5570
(414) 416-9319 mobile
kelly_cornelius2003@yahoo.com

Barbara (Barb) Baron
(Vice Chairman)
916 Shooting Star Road
Grays Lake, IL 60030
7448 Poplar Circle
Waterford, WI 53185
(847) 223-7828 Home
(262) 662-2463 Wisc.Home
(847) 297-7700 office
barbara@prewardsltd.com

Donald (Don) Baron
Racine County Board Appointed
916 Shooting Star Road
Grays Lake, IL 60030
7448 Poplar Circle
Waterford, WI 53185
(847) 223-7828 IL Home
(262) 662-2463 WI Home
(847) 297-7700 office
djb@prewardsltd.com

Andres Peekna
5908 North River Bay Road
Waterford, WI 53185
(262) 895-4790 fax/phone
innmech@wi.rr.com

John Bostrom
6609 Riverside Road
Waterford, WI 53185
(262) 534-6903
(262) 542-0222 EXT 14
johnbostrom@hobostrom.com

Paul Kling
5718 Island View Ct
Waterford, WI 53185
414-232-0693
pkling@wi.rr.com

Gary Bluemel
Treasurer
7154 Joy Marie Lane
Waterford, WI 53185
(262) 662-9730 Main
(414) 322-5106 Mobile
(262) 662-9730 Home
gary.bluemel@outlook.com

Aquatic Plant Committee 2013 Season in Summary

As we are nearing the end of our second full season as a team, we are encouraged and high-spirited about our progress. Thanks to the WWMD we started the season with an increased budget of \$145,000. As a result we were able to expand our early survey for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) in 2013, suspecting that if we looked for more AIS we would find it. That in fact was the case; we treated 191 acres in May of this year compared to 45 acres in 2012.

However, AIS is not our only problem. We also have an overabundance of natural plant life in our waterway which impedes navigation and in some areas is not so nice to look at. Unfortunately, we are very limited by the WDNR on what and where we can treat. In early June, July, and August we treated 50' wide lanes throughout the waterway, using the common chemicals Reward and Captan. We also received approval from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) to continue our experimentation with Clipper, a new herbicide. We found this to be effective in limited areas in 2012 and it continues to show promise this year.

Another approach to controlling aquatic plants that we are exploring is the possibility of a harvesting program. Our information regarding this topic is polarized to say the least. We have researched professionals, other lake districts/communities, and harvester technicians and we have not come up with a clear direction on whether or not to pursue. We have limitations of depth in most areas of our waterway and limitations of money as it is very costly. However, we are still game to experiment. We will start a large scale trial early next season. Once the trial is complete we hope to be able to make an informed decision based on our own analysis.

New this season is our Clean Boats, Clean Waters program. Forming a partnership with Town and Country Research Conservation and Development (TCRCD) we are able to man our launch sites with over 200 hours of watercraft inspector time, attempting to prevent AIS coming into and out of our waterway.

Lastly, on August 1, 2013 we submitted a grant application to the WDNR for Aquatic Invasive Species Established Population Control. If successful we will get 50% of our funding for our efforts reimbursed for the next three years. Keep your fingers crossed!

Thank you to all who offer their positive comments and to those who keep us honest. We welcome any help that you can offer, from two hours a year at the launch site inspecting boats to assistance with the many hours required to help organize and monitor the harvesting effort. Please feel free to contact any of us with concerns that you have or any offers to assist.

Aquatic Plant Management Committee

WWMD Eco System Restoration Project: history and current status

Now celebrating our ten-year anniversary, this fledgling commission can say, "we've come a long way baby", as the activity level to improve the waterway by the WWMD would be difficult to match by most lake districts. The District formed the ESR project in May, 2009 to assess and plan for sediment removal.

Our waterway is an impoundment formed by the dam in Waterford. After more than 160 years of receiving silt, sediment and organic waste eroded from 358 square miles of watershed to our north, much of our basin is full of sediment. This sediment forms a dangerous, sticky muck in which an unwary person putting feet down can get stuck.

To completely restore the ecosystem to what it once was would involve dredging out all of this muck. Because of its sheer volume, the cost of doing that would be prohibitive. Instead, our proposed dredging project involves a 100-foot wide main channel, and numerous 50-foot wide side channels, which together would provide access between most points on the waterway. Our waterway is unique in the variety of ecosystems and scenery. Part of the reason is that it has a large perimeter. One can cruise past houses, marshes and woods. Areas adjacent to the marshes provide excellent fishing spots. The proposed project would assure that navigational access would continue and improve.

In order to tap into the best expertise, the Waterford Waterway Management District (WWMD) has retained the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission and GRAEF Engineering to conduct studies, complete hydrology engineering to formulate a plan for navigational dredging of the Fox River – Buena Lake – Conservancy Bay – Lake Tichigan Waterway as (WWMD ESR Project), to restore navigation, to improve access with safe use and enjoyment by the 1000 plus property-owners along the waterway, and to provide for the return of sustaining natural aquatic life.

Progress thus far involved collecting more than 70 soil samples throughout our waterway. The gist of the results is that the "muck" is very clean in being free of toxic substances, and a valuable organic fertilizer for farms. No red flags arose as to permitting by the Wisconsin DNR. The next Phase 3 – Dredging Plan, and WDNR Chapter 30 Dredging Permit, locate dewater-disposal sites-piping routes, prepare bid specifications, assist with funding options and support grant funding sources.

THE DECISION WHETHER OR NOT TO PROCEED WILL BE DECIDED IN A REFERENDUM OF ALL THE RIPARIAN OWNERS. This may occur after full public hearings in 2014. As always, the cost of doing something should be compared with the cost of doing nothing. Just as we maintain our home and property, should we not maintain our waterway as our important front yard and asset?

We extend our appreciation to our state and regional partners who have provided for and contributed to the approval of this important restoration project. Our heartfelt thanks to SEWRPC, the WDNR research and project management teams, the Southeastern Fox River Commission (SEWFRC), Racine County, C.A.U.S.E., as well as our corporate supporters, and our volunteers each and all.

On behalf of the Ecosystem Restoration Project Team,
John Bostrom and Andres Peekna

Public Outreach Open House

On Saturday, June 15, 2013, the WWMD held an open house at the Evergreen Elementary School in Waterford. The purpose of this open house was to educate the public on the Waterford Ecosystem Restoration Project. On hand were representatives of the WWMD, the Wisconsin DNR, GRAEF Engineering, the Town of Waterford, and other local and regional government organizations. There were a number of booths manned by these people presenting information on the adverse impacts of development and growth on the Fox River-Tichigan Waterway over the past several decades. Also presented was information on several alternatives for the rehabilitation and restoration of this very valuable natural resource.

Over the years the rate of development has increased tremendously along the Fox River, Tichigan Lake, and throughout the Fox River watershed upstream of our community. Current patterns of development include bigger homes, larger lawns, and more impervious surfaces along the shores of our lakes and streams. At the same

time, agriculture continues to make up a significant part of the land use in our watershed. According to the DNR, adverse impacts associated with these land uses include loss of fish and wildlife habitat, gradually declining water quality, and accumulation of sediment. The accumulation of sediment has made portions of our river system increasingly difficult to navigate and at times hazardous.

The WWMD would have liked to have seen a better turnout at this Open House. The success of this project is very dependent upon members of our community understanding both the causes of our problems and the resolutions of our problems. While everybody recognizes this project will be costly, the WWMD along with its partners have yet to determine the exact costs of the successful completion of this project. It is the aim of the WWMD to secure financial support through private and public grants, governmental bodies, as well as the local citizenry. Few people recognize that the financial impact will be far greater if this project does not succeed than if it does, and the negative financial impact will be borne entirely by the local citizenry.

We heartily encourage you to take the time to become informed on the details of this project. Your knowledge is the foundation of our success and the economic welfare of everyone in our community.

SPLASH FLASH

2013 WWMD Meeting Dates/Times

Saturdays 9:00AM - 11:00AM (Fall/Winter)

January 26th, 2013, February 23rd, 2013

March 23rd, 2013, April 27th, 2013

October 26th, 2013, November 23, 2013

*No meeting in December

Annual Meeting - September 21st, 2013

(See enclosed agenda
and budget for details)

Thursdays 7:00PM - 9:00PM (Summer)

May 23rd, 2013, June 27th, 2013

July 25th, 2013, August 22nd, 2013