

Badfish Creek, April 26 meeting

Present: Steve Small, Lisa Hustad John Podebradsky (?spelling), Al Schroeder, Gary Mather, Mark Peters, Sally Small, Rodd Wangen, Jane Sheffy, Jim Wendt, Kurt Welke and Jeff Steven

Next meetings: May 24, 6:30 – 9:00 and June 21, 6:30 – 9:00

Speakers summary

Jeff Steven, Biologist, Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District

Kurt Welke, DNR Dane County Fishery Biologist

The Badfish Creek flow is from 50 – 95% effluent from Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District. This is both a problem and a benefit. What it does positive is provide year round flow and essentially changes it from a category one, headwater stream to a category two stream (larger and more flow).

Analysis of the insects and fish put the quality basically at fair, with some stretches at poor) some of this is due to habitat, the Badfish's watershed is very flat, so the stream is basically all 'runs' which means it has long stretches of even depth water. Better habitat is found in streams with more gradient that has riffles (shallow rocky areas) runs and pools. The Badfish has many straight sections which adds to the homogeneity of habitat.

The Badfish is basically a warm water forage fishery (small minnows, darters, suckers), although there are some trout, pike and walleye. The last two are probably seasonal.

MMSD collects samples of fish, stream invertebrates, nutrients and other parameters twice a year. The DNR does a habitat and fish survey about every six years. The last one was in 2003.

The recommendations were for the group to accept that the stream itself is what it is, mostly an effluent stream and is unlikely to change. Little of the flow is from groundwater. However, the group could work on riparian (streamside) habitat work, such as box elder or invasive control, native plant restorations and armoring (rip-rap) of streambank prone to erosion. That the stream can be a better environmental corridor and recreational asset. We can consider working with landowners and developers to educate them to reduce runoff into the Creek.

Q&A Discussion lead us into discussing the human impact on water resources at a local level.

Both talks were filmed and can be viewed on local cable

Group Discussion after Speakers:

Suzanne Wade, posted those items the group had decided last time were long or short priorities. She then asked the group based on what they heard what did they feel they should do or learn about the following is what was brainstormed:

Learn What Needs to be Done (*not in any particular order*)

- Control Invasive Species especially Eurasian milfoil
- Increase water testing, both in frequency and increase number of parameters
- (Citizen sampling at mid-year) *note: Jeff did say he would let any citizen monitoring teams to tag along with them when they did their twice a year monitoring.*
- Inventory riparian areas
- Enhance stream bed and shores
- Find funding for studies and enhancements

Learn About the Creek Today

- What are the access points

- Impacts to groundwater/best ways to protect
- Impact of development and well pumping on water levels and quality
- Non-point source (runoff) impacts
- What DNR is doing on their land (*and how can our group help*)
- Sediment testing – learn what is in the sediment, pcb's etc
- What are the goals, interests and vision of municipalities: City of Oregon and Fitchburg, Town of Rutland, Dunn and Oregon.

Next Meeting – learn more about the watershed

We selected the next two topics, Groundwater and Watershed Management (see below).
Caroline is to contact the speakers to find out their availability and then schedule them for the best dates.

Topic Ideas:

Groundwater; Purpose to understand the Badfish Creek area from a groundwater standpoint, recharge areas, discharge areas, threats, concerns, plus what a citizen group could do to help protect groundwater and the surface water resources that depend on it (ie springs and wetlands)

Ken Bradbury, USGS

Mike Kakuska, Dane County (608) 266-9111

or after you tell them what you want, they might suggest someone else.

Watershed Management: To understand how the land is managed to protect water resources from both a rural and urban perspective:

Pete Jopke, Dane County Watershed Projects Coordinator (608) 224-3733

Possibly someone from DNR's Watershed Management Section,

Finally: if anyone is interested in monitoring, local training sessions are:

Saturday May 5 Waterloo Fireman's Park, contact Ed Grunden at ed@rockrivercoalition.org or 920-648-2673.

Mon & Tues May 7 & 8, 5:30 - 8:00pm, Stewart Lake County Park, Dane County, contact Pete Jopke, 608-224-3733 or jopke@co.dane.wi.us

Wed. & Thurs. May 30 & 31 (early evening, Central Park, Edgerton, contact Anne Miller at 608-754-6617 ext 118 or amiller@co.rock.wi.us.

Saturday June 2 8:30 - 3:00, Waterville Field Station, contact Jayne Jenks 262-896-8305 or jjjenks@waukeshacounty.gov.

For more information on these training sessions or to inquire about becoming a volunteer stream monitor, contact Ed Grunden at 920-648-2673.