A Land Trust’s Journey
Using the Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative in the Delavan Lake Watershed

Maggie Zoellner, Kettle Moraine Land Trust
Eric Allness, Natural Resources Conservation Service

Kettle Moraine Land Trust
Our Mission is to preserve the natural heritage of the southern Kettle Moraine lakes area and nearby lands through partnerships in land conservancy and resource management.
Delavan Lake is a recreational resource and regional destination that supports our region’s economy.
Delavan Lake WIN uses a watershed approach to attain healthy and sustainable water quality that meets the needs of the surrounding human and ecological community.
Water Quality Challenges

Delavan Lake WIN Goals Summary

1. Use, manage and develop land in Delavan Lake watershed with minimal impacts on the watershed

2. Improve and protect natural areas and ecological corridors

3. Reduce stormwater and runoff from development, private property and agriculture
Delavan Lake WIN Goals Summary

4. Update Delavan Lake watershed improvement and plan document

5. Maintains diverse membership and have resources to enable success

6. Stormwater program includes both infrastructure and education and outreach

Delavan Lake WIN Members

- Kettle Moraine Land Trust
- Delavan Lake Sanitary District
- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
- University of Wisconsin Extension
- Delavan Lake Improvement Association
- Wisconsin Lakes
- Walworth County Association of Lakes
- City of Delavan
- City of Elkhorn

With the Technical Support of:
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Farm Service Agency
Proposal submitted by KMLT in 2010

Partners:
Delavan Lake Sanitary District
Walworth County

Supporting Organizations:
Rock River Coalition
SEWRPC

Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative (MRBI)
Gulf of Mexico Hypoxic Area

Mississippi River Watershed

Sediment plume from the Mississippi River in the Gulf of Mexico

Sediment loads from the Mississippi and Atchafalaya Rivers empty into the Gulf of Mexico
MRBI Objectives

Improve the health of Mississippi River Basin watersheds by assisting producers to voluntarily implement conservation systems which:

- Avoid, control and trap nutrient runoff
- Restore/enhance wetland wildlife habitat
- Maintain agricultural productivity
MRBI

Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI)

Wetlands Reserve Enhancement Program (WREP)

Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG)

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP)
Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
Who May Apply (RFP)

- Federally recognized tribes
- State and local units of government
- Non-governmental organizations

- CCPI additionally names:
  - Farmer cooperatives
  - Producer associations
  - Institutes of higher education

Individual landowners and agricultural producers may not submit proposals under the Request for Proposals (RFP)

Submitting Proposals (RFP)

- MRBI is not a Grant Program
- Must submit separate proposals for CCPI, WREP, and CIG
- No technical assistance funds will be provided to partners through the MRBI-CCPI agreement
- State Conservationist may enter into separate agreements for technical assistance through normal mechanisms
Conservation Systems Approach

- A conservation systems approach that implements multiple practices and management techniques to address water quality concerns due to nutrient and sediment runoff.

Avoiding, Controlling, Trapping (ACT)

- Avoiding
  - Conservation Crop Rotation
  - Nutrient Management
- Controlling
  - Residue Management
  - Contour Farming
  - Terrace
- Trapping
  - Buffers
  - Wetlands
CORE CONSERVATION PRACTICES

AVOIDING
328 - Conservation Crop Rotation
340 - Cover Crop
528 - Prescribed Grazing
590 - Nutrient Management

CONTROLLING
329 - Residue & Tillage Management - No Till
330 - Contour Farming
412 - Grassed Waterway
512 - Pasture and Hayland Planting
585 - Stripcropping
600 - Terrace
645 - Upland Wildlife Habitat Management

TRAPPING
393 - Filter Strip
391 - Riparian Forest Buffer
332 - Contour Buffer Strips
635 - Vegetated Treatment Area
657 - Wetland Restoration
658 - Wetland Creation

SUPPORTING CONSERVATION PRACTICES

AVOIDING
313 - Waste Storage Facility
327 - Conservation Cover
382 - Fence
472 - Access Control
511 - Forage Harvest Management
558 - Roof Runoff Structure
561 - Heavy Use Area Protection
612 - Tree & Shrub Planting
632 - Solid/Liquid Waste Separation Facility
634 - Waste Transfer

TRAPPING
342 - Critical Area Planting
350 - Sediment Basin
533 - Pumping Plant
587 - Structure for Water Control
629 - Waste Treatment
638 - Water & Sediment Control Basin

CONTROLLING
342 - Critical Area Planting
362 - Diversion
386 - Field Border
410 - Grade Stabilization Structure
430 - Irrigation Water Conveyance
447 - Tailwater Recovery
449 - Irrigation Water Management
468 - Lined Waterway or Outlet
484 - Mulching
533 - Pumping Plant
587 - Structure for Water Control
606 - Subsurface Drainage
620 - Underground Outlet
638 - Water & Sediment Control Basin
Dedicated Funding

- $80 million dedicated financial assistance funds for MRBI each year from FY 2010-FY 2013
  - $50 million CCPI *(includes EQIP, WHIP and CSP)*
  - $25 million WREP
  - $5 million CIG (EQIP)