Two New Chapters Are in the Works

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has. –Margaret Meade

But it can be a small death by a thousand cuts when these committed citizens spend most of their time developing by-laws, organizing officers, spending money on corporation papers, buying insurance and all the other sundry items that go into developing today's organizations.

The Rock River Coalition has a solution that we hope will work for many nascent groups in the basin: Become a RRC Chapter.

Chapters work under the umbrella of the Rock River Coalition, taking advantage of our non-profit [501 (c) 3] status, insurance, by-laws and governing body. However, the people who form the chapter develop and oversee their own action plans and activities.

These committed citizens still need to develop their own leadership and identify and gather the resources necessary to accomplish their goals. In many ways it's the best of both worlds.

The Coalition currently has one chapter, the Friends of Badfish Creek Watershed. Two other groups are pursuing this option this winter, one in Johnson Creek and another in Waterloo.

Johnson Creek

The Johnson Creek group, lead by past RRC Board Member Peter Hartz is working with local youth organizations, churches and the historical society as well as interested individuals.

They are interested in a revitalized Johnson Creek, a tributary of the Rock, with a goal of making the creek a valuable amenity for Jefferson County and the Village of Johnson Creek.

Their interest of course includes monitoring and water quality, but will also work on improving shorelines, restoring wetlands and improving stormwater quantity and quality, and promoting educational awareness in the watershed from the headwaters to the mouth at the Rock River.

The initial meeting of the Johnson Creek group will be on Thursday Feb. 5 at 6:30 at the Historical Society located at 110 Aztalan Street in Johnson Creek. Contact Peter at peterhartz@tds.net.

Peter and his kids spend much of their free time in and around the creek. As he says “JC catfish .... you bet”!

He invites everyone in the community to help them, help you in getting connected to your local watershed.

Waterloo

The Waterloo group, with a focus on the Maunesha River, is spearheaded by City Councilman, Matt Ziaja. Since the dam was removed in Waterloo a group of local citizens have held several stream clean-up days, removed barriers to canoeists and helped improve launch sites.

“it's important to those of us living in Waterloo to have a stream that is clean and inviting, a destination for canoeists, particularly in the spring. Waterloo is the site of a new trail center as part of the Glacial Heritage Area. We're excited to explore becoming a chapter which will provide us with the organizational structure that has been lacking in the past,” says Matt Ziaja, one of the chapter organizers.

The Waterloo group will meet on Tuesday Feb. 4 at 6:30 at Waterloo Regional Trailhead Facility.

To learn more contact Matt Ziaja, Alderman, Ward I, City of Waterloo, 920-541-6942 or Matt.Ziaja@gmail.com, or check the Maunesha Wade Alliance Facebook page.

Thanks to a grant from the Brandt-Quirk Foundation, the RRC will provide a facilitator to help these two groups develop their action plan for their chapter, including organizing events this spring.

The Coalition Board is excited about this opportunity. One of the board’s challenges is how to work locally on stream specific actions while maintaining a basin-wide vision. Chapters provide the perfect vehicle to meet this challenge.

If you would like to know more about forming a Chapter contact Suzanne Wade at suzanne@rockrivercoalition.org.
Rock River Coalition President’s Message

20th Anniversary to Highlight Year
2014 is a momentous year for the Rock River Coalition. It is our 20th Anniversary!

As is the case with any anniversary, it is a time of reflection on the past and looking toward the future. The Rock River Coalition has certainly had many accomplishments. We take pride in the partnerships we have forged, the numerous projects we have completed, and the countless educational programs we have implemented.

All of these activities have been done to benefit the resources and the people of the Rock River Basin. Our efforts have resulted in a strong stream monitoring program powered by dedicated citizens, more native plant restorations along stream banks and lake shores, opportunities for people to interact with their elected officials, protection of our groundwater resources, preservation of open space and agriculture through promotion of rural development guidelines, and a program to aid municipalities in taking action to protect water resources.

The future of the Rock River Coalition looks as bright as our past. I am very fortunate to work with a dedicated and hardworking Board.

Our vision promises to lead the organization toward implementing additional programs that will continue to achieve protections and enhancements of the resources in the Rock River Basin. One such endeavor is highlighted in this newsletter – to identify land where wetland restoration could be done with willing landowners to provide a multitude of benefits to the basin including flood retention, pollution reduction, and habitat improvement.

This year, the Board has decided that we will do what we do best: work with our partners to offer events that will educate us about water resources and actions needed to protect them, explore some of the recreational amenities in the basin, and inspire us.

If you are interested in partnering on any of these events or would like to offer another event that will highlight some aspect of the Rock River Basin, please contact us! Another way to contribute to our anniversary is to become a member of the Coalition and donate some additional funds. The memberships and donations we receive enable us to maintain and develop programs to benefit the Basin.

What would an anniversary be without a party? On November 2, 2014, the 20th anniversary events will culminate in a fun celebration. Please plan to join us at Koshkonong Mounds Country Club on the eastern shore of Lake Koshkonong.

While winter lies its heavy blanket across the ground, the RRC Board is busy planning events to celebrate our 20th anniversary.

Activities are being planned that accent the mission of the Rock River Coalition and celebrate all aspects of the human experience including:
1. Mind = Knowledge
2. Body = Active Experiences
3. Heart = Human Spirit

Watch for further announcements on our website, Facebook page and in this newsletter.

In the meantime, enjoy winter activities throughout the basin – whether fishing, skiing, or just hiking along the shore.

The Rock River just upstream of the Indianford Dam. Share your photos of the Rock on our Facebook page. Photo by Jim Kenler

Jefferson Community Foundation Raising Funds for a New Park
The Jefferson Community Foundation is taking the lead to raise funds for the purchase of a new Jefferson County park located along the Crawfish River just west of the City of Jefferson. The land for sale is near the Glacial River Trail, so it will be a beautiful rest stop for bikers. The park will also provide a paddle launch put in/take out site as well as great picnicking and hiking alongside the River. Want to help out? Donations of any amount are welcome.

Please make your donation out to Jefferson Community Foundation and write Crawfish River Park Fund in the memo area. The mailing address is P.O. Box 81, Jefferson, WI 53549.
Coalition Receives Funding from Yahara WINs to Support and Expand the Volunteer Stream Monitoring Program in Yahara River Watershed

Nancy Sheehan, Volunteer Stream Monitoring Coordinator, Rock River Coalition

In December 2013, the Yahara Watershed Improvement Network (Yahara WINs) awarded funding to the Rock River Coalition to implement Year 2 of the Yahara River Watershed citizen stream monitoring program. This grant for $14,348 will help to sustain most of twenty-three volunteer teams established in 2013 as well as launch twenty-six new volunteer teams into various tributaries of the Yahara River in 2014.

Rock River Coalition project partners include Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District, Yahara WINs partners, Water Action Volunteers Program, Dane County Office of Lakes and Watersheds, Dane County Land and Water Resources Division, River Alliance of Wisconsin, Friends of Starkweather Creek, Friends of Pheasant Branch Conservancy-Kids for the Earth Program, Friends of Yahara River Headwaters and the Village of DeForest, Town of Windsor and Token Creek Conservancy Committee, Stoughton Senior Center, and Yahara Lakes Association.

On behalf of the Rock River Coalition Board, I would like to especially recognize Friends of Yahara River Headwaters, Village of DeForest, and Town of Windsor Token Creek Conservation Commission for their substantial matching contributions to this effort.

I look forward to working with these and other partners during Year 2 of this project to recruit, train and support volunteers to collect baseline (Level 1) and trends (Level 2) data as well as sample for total phosphorus, nitrates+nitrites, ortho-phosphates, total suspended solids, ammonia and Total Kjeldahl nitrogen.

The Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District remains a critical partner. The MMSD staff at their Nine Springs Plant will continue to analyze volunteer-collected water samples.

All volunteer-collected data will be uploaded to appropriate state-wide databases to be used for enhanced decision-making. Volunteer-collected data will help Yahara WINs partners assess both interim and long-term impacts of innovative water quality land improvements undertaken by farmers, municipalities, county departments, businesses and individuals throughout the Yahara River watershed. Volunteer-collected data will also help Yahara WINs partners verify compliance to new phosphorus standards.

### Water Quality Category

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### Become a RRC Stream Monitor

**Spring Training Schedule:** I already have a great spring line up for stream monitoring trainings.

- **Saturday, April 5** Level 2 & 3 stream monitoring training at the DeForest Area Public Library, Village of DeForest.
- **Saturday, May 3** Level 1 stream monitoring training at the DeForest Area Public Library, Village of DeForest.
- **Saturday, May 3** Level 1 stream monitoring training at the UW-Waukesha Field Station, Waterville.
- **Saturday, May 10** Level 1 stream monitoring training at the Amundson Center Village of Cambridge.
- **Saturday, May 11** Level 1 stream monitoring training at the Turtle Creek Parkway, Clinton.
- **Saturday, June 7** Level 1 stream monitoring training at the Marsh Haven Nature Center, Waupun.

No registration fee required. If you wish to register or learn more about these training workshops, please contact Nancy Sheehan, RRC Stream Monitoring Coordinator: nancy@rockrivercoalition.org.

It is helpful for prospective volunteers to hear the stories of current volunteers—so any current stream monitors are encouraged to attend, please let me know if you will be joining me during any of these training workshops.
Discover the Outdoors at the Glacial Heritage Area Winter Fair

By Clare Carlson, Friends of Glacial Heritage Area Board Representative

Friends of Glacial Heritage Area

The Friends of Glacial Heritage Area are hosting the first Glacial Heritage Area Winter Fair on Saturday, February 8 at the newly-opened Waterloo Regional Trailhead Facility, 760 McKay Way in Waterloo. The Winter Fair focuses on nature and recreation in the Glacial Heritage Area (GHA), the network of trails and water trails linking together wildlife areas, parks and communities in greater Jefferson County. All are welcome, and reservations are not necessary. Please visit glacialheritagearea.org for an event flyer.

Wildlife in Winter - Animal Tracking

The morning will start with free muffins, donuts and beverages served at 9 a.m., followed by a children’s program at 9:15 a.m. by UW-Whitewater Professor George Clokey. Children will see animal tracks and skull exhibits, as well as have an opportunity to cast their own wolf track. “Identifying animal tracks is an especially relevant skill this winter with the consistent snow cover we’ve had in our region,” remarked Professor Clokey. “Learning animal track identification is also a great way to get families outdoors together and to get children thinking about wildlife in the winter.”

This knowledge also helps people who want to know what kind of resources to put out for wildlife that is already being attracted to their backyards.

Cross-Country Ski Clinic

At 10 a.m., 2 Rivers Bicycle and Outdoor of Watertown and Fort Atkinson will run a free cross-country ski clinic and winter “fatbike” demonstration on the trail behind the Facility. If you have skis and poles, please bring them.

After the demonstration, ski on the Facility trail, or check out the trail at Garman Nature Preserve, less than half a mile away. Jefferson County Parks Department will have both trails groomed for skiing and snowshoeing all day.

Artist Exhibit

Also at 10 a.m., local Artist Amy E. Arntson will display and answer questions related to her watercolor paintings of wave patterns in water. Inspired by light and movement, her paintings at one moment look photo-realistic and in the next expressionistic. Arntson is a renowned artist from Lake Mills, displaying works in public collections throughout the region and has exhibited throughout the world.

Faville Grove Highlighted

At 11 a.m., Matt Weber, Faville Grove Sanctuary Land Steward, will share the history and public use opportunities at Faville Grove Sanctuary. This 605-acre Sanctuary, located near Lake Mills, seeks to protect and expand upon Faville Prairie State Natural Area, the world’s first publicly-protected prairie saved by the efforts of Aldo Leopold in the 1940s. Today, it is home to rare plant species and a large variety of grassland and wetland birds.

The Friends of Glacial Heritage Area organize hikes, paddling trips, bird-watching excursions, bike rides, picnics, habitat restoration work days, and other events throughout the year to get people interested in trails, recreation and wildlife.

Visit glacialheritagearea.org for upcoming events or contact friendsofgha@gmail.com to join the GHA mailing list.

Permaculture Design Certificate Training 2014

By Kate Heiber-Cobb

“Permaculture focuses on thoughtful designs for small-scale intensive systems, which are labor efficient and which use biological resources instead of fossil fuels. Designs stress ecological connections and closed energy and material loops. The core of permaculture is design and the working relationships and connections between all things. Each component in a system performs multiple functions, and each function is supported by many elements. Key to efficient design is observation and replication of natural ecosystems, where designers maximize diversity with polycultures, stress efficient energy planning for houses and settlement, using and accelerating natural plant succession, and increasing the highly productive edge-zones within the system.” ~Bill Mollison, originator of the Permaculture design system

Madison Area Permaculture Guild is offering up the 2014 Permaculture Design Certificate Training beginning in mid-February and ending in early June. The training offers a wide variety of instructors over 80 hours of training. We will be relying upon the expertise and knowledge of people within our wider communities, instead of instructors from other climates and zones coming in to teach. Over half of our training hours involve participatory education, hands-on projects and local tours, so don’t plan on sitting in a classroom for very long! The schedule involves one intensive weekend, several Saturdays then ending in another intensive weekend. This format is more accessible to working adults, parents and students, as compared to an intensive 8-14 day training requiring a large initial financial outlay and time commitment.

The Madison Area Permaculture Guild cultivates diverse, healthy, and productive gardens, streetscapes, and local agriculture by sharing information, building relationships, and creating learning opportunities within our community and bioregion. We promote integrated water, food, and waste systems designed to increase local resilience.

The Guild has worked within the wider community on water projects, such as swale, berms and rain gardens for water harvesting at numerous sites around the wider Madison area. For more information about, or to register for, the training please see MAPG’s website at www.madisonareapermacultureguild.org.
Coalition Receives DNR Grant for Wetland Study in the Rock River Headwaters

By Scott Taylor, RRC Past President, Owner Taylor Conservation, LLC

The Rock River Coalition’s impact on the Rock River Basin often exceeds expectations for a small organization thanks to its habit of leveraging two key resources: grants and partners. In particular, the WDNR Lake Grant has fueled some of the Coalition’s projects with the strongest and most lasting impacts. That’s why we are delighted to receive another Lake Grant, this time for the benefit of two important water bodies near the headwaters of the Rock River – Horicon Marsh and Lake Sinissippi.

We are also pleased this project provides the opportunity to build on the work of our partners, the Natural Resource Conservation Service and the Lake Sinissippi Improvement District.

The NRCS has invested significant staff time in boosting landowner enrollment in water quality-related farm bill programs on the West and South Branches of the Rock River in Fond du Lac County. These streams now benefit from miles of riparian buffers and grassed waterways.

Lake Sinissippi Improvement District has worked for years to mitigate the impacts of sediment and invasive species on its lake.

Our current project takes a slightly different approach to protecting Horicon Marsh and Lake Sinissippi. We plan to identify drained croplands and wetland restoration potential in several subwatersheds of these waterbodies. Restoring these croplands, which in some cases produce poor crop yields in their current condition, to wetlands will directly reduce nutrient and sediment sources to nearby waters, as well as provide pollutant removal and flood storage functions that wetlands are well known for.

Wetland specialists at the DNR have already created maps of “Potentially Restorable Wetlands” for the entire Rock River Basin. Based on soil and land cover maps, the PRW maps highlight “hydric” soils (soils formed under wetland conditions) that are not currently wetland but are not developed either. Most of these areas were ditched and tiled and now support corn, soybean and hay crops, but they still have potential to be returned to their original wetland state.

We plan to build on the DNR’s work by overlaying property maps, using Geographic Information System software, onto the PRWs; this will allow us to identify drained wetland basins that are entirely, or mostly, contained within single properties. Once we find some restorable single-ownership basins, we will inspect air photos and digital images to assess their potential for wetland restoration. The suitability of these sites will be estimated by overlaying property maps, using Geographic Information System software, onto the PRWs; this will allow us to identify drained wetland basins that are entirely, or mostly, contained within single properties. Once we find some restorable single-ownership basins, we will inspect air photos and digital images to assess their potential for wetland restoration.

The final, and most enjoyable, step will be to visit the restorable basins once we have identified them on maps. In most cases we will simply drive nearby roads and glimpse the sites from road shoulders. However in other cases we might contact landowners and walk properties.

The final product of this study will be a portfolio of field-confirmed restorable basins, complete with maps and notes for use by wetland restoration practitioners, including those with the Wetland Reserve Program, US Fish & Wildlife Partners for Wildlife and Ducks Unlimited.

As you probably know, vast landscapes in the Rock River Basin were wetlands before European settlement in the early 19th century. We value our agricultural industry and do not seek a return to presettlement conditions, but our waters – and especially our lakes – benefit tremendously from increases in wetland pollutant removal and flood storage services. So why not restore more wetlands where landowners are willing and soils are suitable?

The Rock River Coalition is fortunate to have proactive partners like the Natural Resource Conservation Service and the Lake Sinissippi Improvement District. We are also lucky our DNR had the vision to create programs like the Lake Grant that allow the vision of small non-profits to take shape.

We look forward to sharing the results of our restorable wetland study in next fall’s Rock River Reflections.
Save Money and the River - Use Less Salt This Winter

Salt and sand contribute greatly to lake and stream pollution. Once it’s spread on parking lots, streets, sidewalks and driveways, it’s on its way to the nearest lake or stream and cannot be recovered. Fifty pounds of salt (one large bag) can pollute 10,000 gallons of water—which is equivalent to one teaspoon in a five-gallon bucket of water. Increases in sodium and chloride have been shown to decrease the biodiversity in wetland areas, altering the development of wood frogs, decreasing the number and types of fish available, and increasing mortality rates of organisms that rely on an aquatic system.

Municipalities are working to cut salt use while still keeping streets safe. So, let’s all save money this winter with these helpful tips and help the lakes and rivers at the same time.

• Always use a shovel first, especially if the pavement temperature is 32°F or more—don’t waste money on deicers.
• Reserve deicers for ice, not snow. Shovel as soon as possible so that wet, heavy snow doesn’t have the opportunity to turn to ice.
• All salt is not created equal. Various types of deicers perform differently at different temperature ranges. The most common and cheapest is sodium chloride ("rock salt"), but doesn’t work when the pavement is colder than 15°F. Magnesium chloride and calcium chloride cost more, but you’ll use less and it works in colder temps.
• You should also be careful about your deicing choice if you have pets that go outside, or kids that could get dirty snow in their mouths. Calcium magnesium acetate (CMA), and calcium chloride (CaCl2) are all less toxic than basic rock salt, and there are some completely chloride-free products (e.g. "Safe Paw") if you’re willing to spend more.
• Consider getting a pavement thermometer (~$30) to help determine pavement temperatures, which can vary widely depending on how much sun shines on your driveway. (Plus, they’re kind of fun to play with.)
• Measure your sidewalk and driveway so you know how much you need. A general guideline is to use 1-3 cups of salt per 1,000 square feet, but follow the instructions on the product you choose.
• Apply a salt solution to the pavement before the storm with a sprayer. Then, shovel a little while it’s snowing. After the storm, shovel; don’t salt. Most times, you won’t need any salt. Use deicers on ice, don’t waste it on snow.
• While salt is sometimes mixed with sand to keep the sand from freezing into a solid block, it’s not a good idea to use both at the same time on your sidewalk. The salt will melt the ice, but when it refreezes, the sand will be frozen below the surface where it can’t do any good. Choose one or the other. Try removing the ice by hand first before using either sand or salt.
• If you have an area that tends to ice up, consider making it a priority to remedy next summer so you won’t need to deice in the future.

Be a "Label Reader"!
Read the label on the ice melt product so that you know exactly what you are spending your hard-earned cash on. If the bag doesn’t say otherwise, it’s probably sodium chloride, but you’re better off using something that says exactly what’s in the bag. Some products claiming to be “green” or “pet safe” are simply chloride compounds. You can always ask for the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for the product—it will show percentages so that you can see if you are paying for pretty packaging of rock salt. And while you’re reading, be sure to follow the application rates. You need much less of some products than others, so be sure not to waste money by over applying. The following materials are generally available in our area, and you may also see a variety of combinations of these materials.

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<th>Approximate Cost</th>
<th>Pro’s &amp; Con’s</th>
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<td>$18/50 lbs</td>
<td>Use much less than rock salt, chloride impacts; may damage concrete</td>
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<tr>
<td>Magnesium Chloride</td>
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<td>$18/50 lbs</td>
<td>Less toxic than calcium chloride and less damaging to concrete and pavement, but may corrode metals over time</td>
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<td>Keeps sidewalks dry, but can damage concrete, vegetation, vehicles and infrastructure</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amide/Glycol</td>
<td>5°F</td>
<td>$17/8 lbs</td>
<td>An alternative to salt, safe for pets and plants, but expensive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sand</td>
<td>No melting effect</td>
<td>$5/50 lbs</td>
<td>Not a deicer; for traction only; do not use with salt; accumulates in streets, lakes and rivers; needs to be swept up, easily tracked into buildings</td>
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This message is brought to you by the Rock River Stormwater Group in partnership with the Madison Area Municipal Storm Water Partnership. Both groups thank you for helping to Renew the Rock by reducing stormwater pollution throughout the Rock River area.

Learn more at www.renewtherock.com.

Municipal members of the Rock River Stormwater Group include: Beaver Dam, Beloit, Town of Beloit, Fort Atkinson, Janesville, Jefferson, Milton, Watertown, and Whitewater. Non-municipal partners include Rock River Coalition, Lake Sinissippi Lake District, Town and Country RCD.
Sustainable Strategies Webinars Offered by Wisconsin Water Star and Wisconsin Legacy Communities

Wisconsin Water Star and Wisconsin Legacy Communities are jointly producing a series of informative webinars in 2014. Twelve programs in the Sustainable Strategies series are scheduled for the third Thursday of each month, from noon - 1:00 pm. These interactive sessions are open to all and designed to help Wisconsin's municipalities manage their land and water resources.

The series features local experts and case studies. Participants need not travel, but access the information from their office or home computers using Go-To-Webinar. Register at: https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/243535617. Next webinar, “Get to Know Wisconsin Legacy Communities and the Wisconsin Water Star Program” will be held on Feb. 20.

January Sustainable Strategies Webinar Highlighted Green Infrastructure Code and Ordinance Concerns - archive available

The first webinar took place on Thursday, Jan. 16 and is archived at www.waterstarwisconsin.org.

The title of the presentation is “Impacts of Local Codes and Ordinances on Green Infrastructure.”

Program presenters Kate Morgan, Water Policy Director for 1000 Friends of Wisconsin, and Juli Beth Hinds, Principal at Birchline Planning, talked about research they’ve conducted that shows how green infrastructure (GI), an effective means to improve water quality and aquatic habitat by reducing stormwater runoff, is often unintentionally discouraged by municipal codes.

Stormwater runoff is the primary source of pollutants entering our waterways, yet critical barriers in ordinances discourage or prohibit use of GI in public and private lands. The project team for the initiative, “Advancing Green Infrastructure in the Menomonee River Watershed through Enhanced Municipal Codes and Ordinance Review,” will present their process and key findings to address this challenge.

Using the Menomonee River watershed restoration plan; Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District’s Regional Green Infrastructure Plan; GI’s mapping of zoning districts, percent imperviousness, and pollutant hotspots; the project team identified prohibitive codes and ordinances that, if amended, will have the greatest potential to reduce pollutants.

About the Sponsors

Wisconsin Water Star is a cooperative effort by public, private and non-profit organizations to support communities in Wisconsin that are doing exceptional work to help Wisconsin’s municipalities manage their land and water resources. Communities fill out a comprehensive online application to earn recognition as either a Bronze, Silver or Gold level Water Star Community.

Wisconsin Water Star is seeking funding to strengthen its ability to accomplish its mission.

The Wisconsin Legacy Communities Charter is a unique partnership between Wisconsin communities, non-profit organizations, and state agencies to assist communities in developing and implementing sustainability measures. Under a shared agreement, municipalities take actions and share information to achieve superior environmental stewardship by focusing on water resources management and/or sustainability practices.

Readers wanting to learn more about the program and how to help it succeed are encouraged to visit http://www.waterstarwisconsin.org or contact program coordinator UWEX Natural Resources Educator Andy Yencha at andrew.yencha@ces.uwex.edu, 414-256-4631, or from Town and Country RC&D program host Beth Gehred at beth.gehred@tacrcd.com, 920-541-3208.

WI DNR TMDL Guidance Documents


In addition to these guidance documents, the DNR has produced a series of webinars on TMDL Implementation, trading, and adaptive management. Users may register to attend upcoming webinars via internet, or view past webinars online. WI DNR TMDL Webinars http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/SurfaceWater/atlas.html

Job Opening: TMDL Project Manager

Location will be Fitchburg or Milwaukee. More information at Wisc.Jobs.
RRC Launches a New Website and 20 Year Anniversary Logo

While our current website has served us well, the board has discussed refreshing the site and making it easier to update. Need met with opportunity this fall when we found out about “Design Like Mad,” a Madison program that pairs programmers and designers with community-minded organizations. We successfully applied to the program and -- building on initial work by our webmaster, Marsha Vomastic -- the design team donated their time to create a new website for us.

The Design Like Mad event included a team of student and professional designers who worked for an entire day to redesign our website and develop a logo for our 20th anniversary. We are delighted with the results! We would like to thank our team of designers: Claire Tomm, Jack Saxe-Staral, Mike Kyllo, Nicholas Staffanson, and Jason Hardies. Their hard work is greatly appreciated!

Our goals for the new website are to better communicate with our members, to freshen up the organization’s look, and to allow more people to contribute and view content. We’ll be including more upcoming events and content in our newsletter. Overall, the site will provide more up-to-date information about our projects and basin news. The new website should be up by early February. Check it out at RockRiverCoalition.org and let us know what you think!

Welcome Mark and Mike to the Rock TMDL Effort!

Mark Riedel is very happy to join the DNR and grateful for the opportunity to return to public service. He will work out of the WDNR Fitchburg Office and serve as the Outreach Specialist and Implementation Planner for the Rock River TMDL Project. Mark is a Professional Hydrologist with 18+ years of experience in watershed management, river processes, and water quality. This includes a combination of private sector consulting work in river restoration and hydroelectric projects, and watershed hydrology, climatic, and river research with the U.S. Forest Service in Wisconsin, the Upper Midwest and the southern Appalachians.

He holds graduate degrees in water resources engineering and fluível geomorphology, and an undergraduate in Natural Resources and Forest Hydrology. Mark spends his free time working on his old house, playing with his dogs, hunting, fishing, hiking, kayaking, and as a volunteer firefighter for the Village of Albany.

Contact Mark at the DNR Fish Hatchery Office, 608-275-3471 or marks.riedel@wisconsin.gov.

Mike Gilbertson joined our team in Water District South this fall at Fitchburg as the Nonpoint Source Coordinator. His job duties include a major role with coordinating the agricultural and nonpoint source component of the Rock River TMDL. Contact Mike at mike.gilbertson@wisconsin.gov, 608-275-3288.

He comes into this position with an excellent background and a great deal of experience. Currently the Animal Waste Specialist working out of the Dodgeville Office, he received his Bachelor of Science Degree from UW-La Crosse in 2001, where he majored in Biology with an environmental science concentration. He also worked in the Bureau of Watershed Management as a Water Resources Management Specialist, where he focused on water quality assessment/management projects and coordinated the statewide Surface Water Assessment Team (SWAT). His job responsibilities also included the development and implementation of several TMDL projects throughout the state (including the Upper Fox River and Wolf River Basins).

Mike and his wife Marilyn live in the Madison Area and are very busy raising their three children. He enjoys playing hockey, biking, camping and trying to keep up with kids.

2014 Rock River Monitoring Confluence

DATE: Saturday, March 29
TIME: 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM
PLACE: Fitchburg Community Center
5510 Lacy Road, Madison, WI
RSVP: Nancy Sheehan
nancy@rockrivercoalition.org

More information will be on the website by Mid-February.
Active monitors will be sent an invitation
Don’t miss spring training workshops - complete list on page 3

Rock River Recovery TMDL and Implementation Plan News

With formal approval of the Rock River TMDL, emphasis within the WI DNR shifted to TMDL implementation. TMDL Implementation actually has two parallel and connected paths, implementation planning and on-the-ground implementation of best practices at the local level to realize P and TSS load reductions to the Rock River and its tributaries. Implementation planning consists of developing the framework and a formal RRR Implementation Plan for submittal to the US EPA. Local level on-the-ground implementation has already begun as industrial and municipal discharge WPDES permit holders work with local agricultural agencies and producers to identify pollutant reduction strategies through trading and adaptive management practices or plan upgrades to their facilities, if needed, to meet their allocations.

DNR has been working with local WPDES permitted facilities and holding regular meetings using a watershed approach to facilitate incorporation of the approved waste load allocations into reissued permits. On the Implementation Planning front, the DNR has developed a number of formal guidance and policy documents. (See Page 7) In addition a guidance document for MS4’s is being finalized and should be available on the DNR website by early spring.

With the guidance documents completed, the DNR is now developing a draft implementation planning framework and strategy for review by the U.S. EPA. Once approved, drafting of the formal Rock River Recovery Implementation Plan (RRRIP) will begin. This will be a significant milestone and we envision holding a watershed wide informational public meeting to provide updates on the TMDL implementation progress, the status of WPDES permits, conduct educational forums to discuss pollutant trading and adaptive management, and solicit public input and answer questions.