



Rock River Reflections

A publication of the Rock River Coalition in cooperation with the Rock River Stormwater Group and the University of Wisconsin-Extension

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New Signs Enlist the Public to Help Prevent Construction Site Erosion

By Jason Valerius, Rock River Stormwater Group Education and Outreach Coordinator, MSA Professional Services

This season has been a perfect storm (pun intended) for soil erosion into our lakes, streams and rivers. The rebounding residential market means more construction sites with exposed soil, and the spring storms were relentless, pounding those sites with wind and heavy rain. It was a perfect time for members of the Rock River Stormwater Group (RRSG) to discuss construction site erosion control practices.

RRSG is a consortium of communities across the Rock River Basin working together to keep pollutants out of our waterways (see RenewTheRock.com). The Rock River is listed as "impaired" by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) due to existing sediment concentrations, and RRSG is trying to decrease sediment pollution. Following our June meeting, hosted in Whitewater, we toured active construction sites across the

city to see erosion control methods in action. We talked about the inspection and enforcement processes used in our communities to ensure the proper function of those practices.

We discovered that the Whitewater sites had survived that week's torrential rains without any critical failures or dramatic soil loss – the silt fences and tracking pads and storm drain protections had mostly worked. But we also saw signs of erosion, and we observed some improper practices and small failures that allowed that erosion to occur. The need for frequent and thoughtful inspection was clearly reinforced.

The Wisconsin DNR regulates construction sites greater than one acre and most municipalities require permits for smaller construction sites. WDNR requires that erosion control practices be inspected at least once every seven



days and within 24 hours after a rainfall event of 0.5 inch or more and provides a Construction Site Inspection Report Form (http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/stormwater/documents/3400187_Construction_Site_Inspection_Report.pdf) to document these inspections. Damaged or ineffective erosion control practices must be repaired or replaced within 24 hours of notification of a problem.

So the DNR and the municipality are working on this challenge, but you may be wondering if there is anything you can do to help stop construction site erosion.

Absolutely! We need your help. The RRSG has created signs to be placed on construction sites throughout the area that ask the general public to help identify erosion control failures. This year there will be signs like the one in the picture above in Beaver Dam, Beloit, Janesville, and Whitewater.

If you see erosion from a construction site in your community, contact your city engineer or public works department (if the site has one of these signs, call the number provided). Some specific things to look for that merit a call:

- Silt fences are broken and appear to be failing
- Muddy water/debris is leaving the construction site
- Stormwater drains near the site are clogged
- Lakes/ponds near construction sites appear muddy

The inspection process is vital to erosion prevention, and sometimes municipal inspectors are stretched thin by many sites and frequent weather events. Assistance is welcome. Together we can make our rivers, lakes, and streams cleaner for future generations.

The Rock River Stormwater Group thanks you for helping to Renew the Rock by reducing stormwater pollution throughout the Rock River area. Learn more at www.RenewTheRock.com.

Contact Jason at 608-242-6629 or jvalerius@msa-ps.com.

RRC Needs Designer

The RRC needs a help to design our 20th Anniversary invitations and sponsor requests. Contact Suzanne at suzanne@rockrivercoalition.org

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Rock River Coalition President's Message

In May of this year, the Rock River Coalition held its annual meeting of members. The exciting happenings at this event epitomized the mission of our organization to work in partnership with others to protect and highlight the wonderful resources in our basin.

Two new chapters of the Rock River Coalition were welcomed into the fold: the Mauneshia River Alliance and the Johnson Creek Watershed Alliance. Citizens dedicated to their local rivers worked hard to develop action plans that include river clean-ups, water monitoring, and educating others about the needs of the resource.

The Johnson Creek and Mauneshia River action plans were developed as part of a grant that the Rock River Coalition received from the Brand-Quirk Foundation. The Coalition is excited to have these groups join our partnership and we look forward to highlighting their good work in our

newsletter. Please visit the Mauneshia River Alliance Facebook page to learn more about them.

The Rock River Coalition has always been an organization committed to educating citizens about topics that are critical to the future of the basin. The keynote speaker at our annual meeting covered one such topic – reducing sediment and phosphorus inputs into our waters. Mark Riedel, DNR Water Resource Management Specialist, talked about the Rock River Recovery effort that will be a long-term project to reduce pollutants into the many rivers and streams in the basin. A special education session on this effort will be held in the fall of this year, and we will keep you informed about those plans on our Facebook and web pages.

The annual meeting was held at the CamRock Café and Sport in Cambridge. This location also was a nod to our mission of highlighting

recreational opportunities in the basin. Not only do they offer great food and drink, but they also rent bikes so that people can visit the near-by CamRock Trails alongside the beautiful Koshkonong Creek and in the winter they also rent cross-country skis, snowshoes and fat bikes.

To me, the annual meeting gets me excited not only to take action to protect our resources, but also to enjoy them by hiking and paddling! You can do the same by taking advantage of happenings detailed in this newsletter.

Patricia Cicero,
RRC President



Mission

"To educate and bring together people of diverse interests to protect and improve the economic, environmental, cultural, and recreational resources of the Rock River Basin in Wisconsin"

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Next deadline is October 3, 2014.

A letter-sized color version of this newsletter is available at www.rockrivercoalition.org.

Sign up for a monthly email update at <https://lists.uwex.edu/mailman/listinfo/rock-river-basin-update>.

Contact Marie Rubietta at marier@jeffersoncountywi.gov if you'd prefer a pdf of the newsletter emailed to you.

RRC is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, providing equal opportunity in employment & programming.

TTY: 711 for Wisconsin Relay

If you need special accommodation for programs please contact the RRC at least two weeks in advance.

Saturday, September 20, 2014

Wheel Against the Weeds II – Save the Date

Join biking enthusiasts and nature lovers on Saturday, September 20, for a 30 mile environmental educational ride through rural Rock County. See the work of volunteers from Friends groups such as the Prairie Enthusiasts, Rock County Conservationists, Save Our Lake Environment, and the Friends of Badfish Creek Watershed.

Town and Country RC&D's Invasive Species Team and Rock County Parks along with the City of Evansville are hosting the ride. It will feature a free gourmet locally-sourced lunch featuring bacon-wrapped quail, courtesy of MacFarlane Pheasants, and fruits and veggies sourced at the Evansville Farmers Market.

The first 50 registered riders will receive t-shirts, also sponsored by MacFarlane Pheasants. Everyone will receive a registration packet with information about invasive species and native seed packs provided by Agrecol.

Proceeds from the ride will go toward aquatic and terrestrial invasive species education.

The ride is unique in its combination of education and sport. Riders will start at 8:30 in the morning at Gibbs Lake Park in rural Rock County and hear from volunteers from Midwest Prairies and The Prairie Enthusiasts about restoration projects on land and along the shoreline carried out by Rock County Parks Department. Simple Life Country Store in Cooksville sponsored the site and riders are invited to stop by this quaint historic site to thank the owner as they peddle past during the ride.

Then they'll bike approximately ten miles and reach Lake Leota and hear how the community of Evansville came together to reclaim this gem in the heart of their city. John Gishnock of formecology will tell the S.O.L.E. (Save our Lake Environment) story of volunteer restoration and rejuvenation of the lake and its surrounding park. Here, too, riders interested in local sight-seeing can take a quick detour of the Evansville Farmers Market, which will be in full swing on the morning of the ride.

Hop on the bike again and riders will come to a beautiful pull-out along the Badfish Creek, to hear from Friends of the Badfish Creek volunteers about their efforts to control Japanese knotweed and other noxious, aggressive species.

The loop comes back round to Gibbs Lake for a scenic picnic celebration featuring local brew Wisconsin Amber.

This ride is not a race and is family friendly, with discounted registration for two or more from the same household. Register at <http://www.tacrcd.com/wheel-against-the-weeds.html>. Sign up by September 1 for the early-bird entry fee.

For more information, contact Beth Gehred at beth.gehred@tacrcd.com or 920-541-3208.

Johnson Creek Watershed Alliance: Chapter Update

The newest chapter of the Rock River Coalition is the Johnson Creek Watershed Alliance. Some JCWA members have been busy learning the fundamentals of creating a webpage while other members have focused on mastering stream monitoring techniques.

As work began on the webpage, we realized JCWA needs a logo to identify our chapter. Additionally, JCWA intends to inform the community about our Chapter, it's goals and mission while recruiting new members.

One way to accomplish all of the above is to hold a logo contest! To jump-start the chapter, a free one-year membership to JCWA will go to the winner of our logo contest.

Chapter members are working on the entry form, selection criteria and other contest details. We intend to work with the "Friends of Johnson Creek Schools" and other community organizations to accomplish a logo that reflects our specific community and Chapter.

Watch for additional details in the next newsletter.



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Preliminary Assessment of Enbridge's Line 61 Expansion

By Eric Compas, Associate Professor, Geography & Geology Department, UW-Whitewater



Citizens turned the Enbridge Open House in Jefferson into a serious question and answer session.

The Rock River Coalition Board passed a resolution requesting more studies be done before this project is allowed to continue. Photo by Light Brigading on Flickr

I didn't believe it when I heard that one of the largest tar-sands pipelines in the world would soon be running through the Rock River Basin. The details were fuzzy, but the story went something like this: a company called Enbridge wants to triple the capacity in a Wisconsin pipeline to one-and-a-half times the proposed Keystone XL pipeline -- making it the largest pipeline in North America. And nobody knows about it.

I teach university students about the Keystone XL pipeline, and I ask them to follow pipeline news. That, of course, means that I need to know more than they do for class discussion. As for Enbridge, I knew the company was responsible for the largest and most expensive pipeline spill in North America on Michigan's Kalamazoo River. They are \$1 billion into that cleanup effort and still not finished. I also knew about the network of pipelines that crisscrossed the Midwest and that our local pipeline carried tar-sands oil (or diluted bitumen or "dilbit"). I also knew that dilbit spills are very difficult to clean up -- particularly in streams -- because the bitumen sinks to the bottom unlike conventional crude.

I had heard nothing about a major expansion rivaling the Keystone XL.

Searching through our state's newspapers revealed little more. None of the state's papers provided much detail on proposed expansion or the potential risks involved. Only the Madison chapter of the group 350.org was aware of the pipeline expansion and the two sets of permits required -- a state air quality permit for the expanded storage tanks and pumps in Superior and a Corp of Engineers wetland permit for the expanded footprint of pumping stations across the state.

So I dove in. Here's a summary of what I've discovered so far after numerous web searches and email and phone conversations with state and federal

officials. On June 24th about 75 citizens showed up at an Enbridge informational session in Jefferson, expressing a variety of concerns.

Line 61 extends from Superior, Wisconsin, to northern Illinois and was originally constructed in 2007 to carry heavy crude and dilbit from North Dakota and Alberta oil fields to refineries in Chicago and the Gulf. Line 61 parallels three other lines through Wisconsin that also carry various forms of heavy crude and a line that carries chemical "diluent" back to Alberta to be reused. Combined, the three pipelines have the capacity to carry 1.4 million barrels per day (bpd). According to the line's original Environmental Assessment, the pipeline crosses 242 streams and 757 wetlands. The pipeline has a significant footprint in the Rock River watershed, entering the basin just northwest of Columbia, cutting a line to the southeast to Fort Atkinson, and turning south to Delavan, all in all traveling about 73 miles through the basin.

The proposed expansion would occur in two phases. First, the pump stations along the pipeline will be expanded to increase capacity along the line from the current 400,000 barrels per day (bpd) to 540,000 bpd. In the second phase, twelve new pump stations would be constructed along the length of the pipeline to increase capacity from 540,000 bpd to 1,200,000 bpd (approximately 6% of US daily use). Note that the proposed Keystone XL is planned to only carry 880,000 bpd -- Line 61 would be almost 50% larger and the largest owned by Enbridge. I haven't been able to identify any other pipeline in North America that would carry more crude.

Surprisingly, it appears that this expansion needs very few approvals. The original pipeline was reviewed in 2006 by Wisconsin DNR and the Army Corps of Engineers through an Environmental Assessment (EA). The EA assessed both the 42" Line 61 and 20" Line 13 (return line for diluent) from Superior to the Delavan pump station near Whitewater. The EA focused in the impacts of the construction of the pipeline and found no significant impacts. Challenged unsuccessfully in court by the Wisconsin Wetland Association and the River Alliance of Wisconsin as

insufficient, a full environmental impact statement was never undertaken and construction was approved. In mid-June, DNR approved the air quality permit and approval from the Corps of Engineers for the wetland permits appears likely this summer.

In conducting my research, I found several reasons to be concerned. The expansion, from 400,000 barrels per day to 1,200,000 bpd, represents a significant increase in the amount of dilbit and pressure within the pipeline. The original environmental assessment (a light version of an environmental impact statement), which was conducted in 2006 and which Enbridge and the Wisconsin DNR claim is sufficient, did not consider this quantity of dilbit and was completed prior to the significant spill on the Kalamazoo River. While the original

EA states the pipeline was designed to withstand 1,275 psi, I could find no details on the proposed pressure in the pipeline

(more pump stations would likely keep pressures lower) or any pressure limits that recent testing may have shown. According to the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration official I spoke with, it is this pressure that they are most concerned about (federal law does regulate pipeline operation). While PHMSA doesn't issue permits, they would take enforcement actions if their regular inspections showed that Enbridge was exceeding this design capacity.

A key question is whether the EA covered the current expansion. This is somewhat unclear. The EA mentions moving 400,000 bpd of Alberta tar sands crude (EA page 7) but does not indicate capacity exceeding this and certainly does not address the

proposed 1.2 million bpd. However, of the pipeline's required permits (EA Table 1 on pp.9-10), none appear to be tied to the operation of the pipeline, only its original construction. Potential spills are addressed in the EA, but at that point in time, no large diluted bitumen spills had occurred and Enbridge's record was relatively clean. The EA states (page 49) that Enbridge can "effectively limit the impact of spills and adequately clean up after a spill." In light of the Kalamazoo spill, these statements now appear naive and untrue. In addition, the State Department is requiring a new environmental impact statement for a similar expansion of Enbridge's Line 67, the "Alberta Clipper," crossing the US border. There appears to be a double standard being applied to Line 61 with the DNR claiming that only new construction, and not the expanded capacity, requires any approval.

Pay attention as this story unfolds. Despite DNR's recent approval of the air quality permit and the likely approval by the Corps of Engineers, significant concerns still exist about this expansion and its potential impact on the state's natural resources and human health. As the oil industry seeks new routes to move large quantities of crude oil, Wisconsin and the Rock River Basin are the major crossroads -- and our state stands to gain few economic benefits despite facing significant risks. While it is worthy to debate whether dilbit should be moved at all, and whether pipeline or rail is the appropriate way to move dilbit, neither should occur without significant scrutiny, full understanding of the risks involved, and accountability measures in place. Both the local risks of a spill and the broad impacts of climate change should be part of this discussion. While the debate over the Keystone XL pipeline continues, we suddenly find ourselves at the epicenter of debate over the international development of tar sands.

Enbridge pipeline will expand from 400,000 barrels a day to 1,200,000 that's 320,000 more than the controversial Keystone pipeline.

Wetlands, Wildlife Habitat & Flood Hazards Webinars
Focus: Local opportunities for improvement
Time: 3:00 – 4:30 PM
Thurs, August 21 Kyle Magyera, WI Wetland Association
Tues, Sept. 16 Kathy Lake, MMSD
Tues, Oct. 21 Scott Taylor, Taylor Conservation, LLC
Tues, Nov. 11 Roxanne Gray, WI Emergency Management
Registration will be opening online July 21st.
Check for links at Town and Country RC&D website: www.tacrcd.com or <https://www4.gotomeeting.com/register/880164967>

Stream Side Notes

By Nancy Sheehan, RRC Volunteer Stream Monitoring Coordinator



A picture is worth a thousand words.

The time between the spring equinox and the summer solstice has been a whirlwind of activity. The photos included in this edition of our Rock River Reflections illustrate the wonderful stream side experiences I have shared with all the new volunteers during six training workshops.

100 people contacted me who were interested our stream monitoring program. I have had the pleasure of training 78 new volunteers. I wish I could describe each of these trainings and the subsequent site visits with these volunteers; instead I hope the photo collage will suffice to say that good times have been had and moreover many of our streams now have stream stewards.

For example, we have three new teams monitoring the Crawfish River in Columbia and Dodge Counties. Little Turtle Creek in Walworth County is now on our monitoring map.

We now have 10 new Level 1 monitoring teams in the Yahara River

watershed in Dane County.

Volunteer teams stepped forward to collect nutrient samples (Level 3) at fourteen new sites also within the Yahara River watershed. I would be remiss if I did not also report that most of our 2013 volunteers are still monitoring. I am grateful too that so many of our volunteers have found the time to commit to their streams to monitor over multiple years. These volunteers provide the invaluable data to assess stream health over time.

I have also worked with the DeForest Area High School students enrolled in agricultural and biological science classes. We monitored the Yahara River at Veteran's Park in DeForest right before a huge thunderstorm rolled in. It was great to work alongside the high school teachers and Pete Jopke with Dane County Land and Water Conservation Department and Barry Eichinger with the Friend of the Yahara River Headwaters.

The RRC thanks all co-organizers who made our trainings run smoothly; Barry Eichinger with the Friend of the Yahara River Headwaters; Kathy Lake and Monty Baker with Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District; Patricia Cicero Water Resource Management Specialist of Jefferson County; Anne Miller, Conservation Specialist, and David Hoffman, Community Coordinator, with Rock County; and Renee Wahlen Tillema with the Marsh Haven Nature Center.

After I have met with all the new volunteer teams and all sites have been confirmed I will add photos and update the website.

Thank you for everyone's patience as I make my way to your monitoring locations around the basin. And, enjoy these next few summer months.



A picture is worth a thousand words.

Photo collage of our volunteer stream monitors clockwise from top left:

1) Level 1 training on Koshkonong in Cambridge Megan McConville, Eve Swenson, Arielle Miller and Dale Van Holten; 2) Level 1 Training on Turtle Creek; 3) Level 1 Training on the West Branch of the Rock River in Marsh Haven Nature Center; and 4) DeForest Area High School Students.

Photos by Nancy Sheehan



Note from the Board: We desperately need your help to support our monitoring program. We have more than 10 teams that could not begin monitoring this year since we didn't have money for equipment. Please donate today to our citizen monitoring program, one kit costs \$300, but any amount helps!



Rock River Recovery Update - Forum Coming in September

The Rock River Implementation has been very active with working meetings of the Implementation, Education & Outreach, and MS4 Sector teams since the last newsletter. We are currently planning additional working meetings for Agriculture, Education & Outreach, and Point Source Discharge permit holders. The Group 8 point source meeting is scheduled for July 24 and invitations have been sent to permit holders. TMDL Implementation and Implementation Planning will be the focus of our Rock River Basin update forum. Forum planning included an open survey for workshop topics. Some of the topics to be featured include; TMDL Implementation Updates, Phosphorus Variance Updates, and a Trading and Adaptive Management strategies session. In response to scheduling feedback from stakeholders and participants, we have shifted the planned date to mid-September. Please visit the Rock River Recovery website for general information (<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/tmdls/rockriver/>). If you would like to receive more frequent news and information, send a request to receive email updates to Marks.Riedel@wisconsin.gov. Happy Summer!

Rock River Coalition's Send Your Legislator Down the River

Wednesday August 20, 2014
Featuring the City of Fort Atkinson



SYLDR 2001 was along this same section, come and enjoy this relaxing and informative trip with the RRC as we celebrate 20 years.

The event will start at the The Edgewater Supper Club, on its quirky back porch where we'll enjoy conversations and a meal with legislators and local elected officials.

We'll launch from Elmore Klement Park on County K, go up the Bark River and back to the Rock. We'll take out at the public launch site in Fort Atkinson. One interpretive stop is planned at the confluence of the Bark and the Rock.

The paddle will be approximately 3 miles in length, depending on how far up the Bark River we go. It is expected to take less than two hours. There is an optional put-in at the Edgewater, with steep steps down to the river. This would add about 2 miles to the paddle. Depending on water levels we may have a motor boat available for those unable to be in a canoe.

Note: As of this printing legislators are being invited, but none are currently registered. We'll post who is coming on our Facebook page.

Agenda

- 4:30 - 5:30pm Registration - The Edgewater Supper Club, N3522 County Road K, Jefferson
- 4:30 - 5:30 Meal: Pre-order only, meal cost includes tip and tax, beverages not included. The Edgewater is known for their locally sourced ingredients.
- 4:45 - 5:45 Welcome and River Town Hall Meeting: A chance to talk to your local elected officials and state legislators.
- 6:00 - 7:45 Launch canoes: Enjoy the paddle and an interpretive stop along the way.

We encourage you to bring a reusable water bottle. Beverages will be provided on the canoe trip.

In case of inclement weather, the meal and River Town Hall meeting will be held at The Edgewater. The canoe trip will not be rescheduled. If in doubt check the Rock River Coalition Facebook page for updates or call 608-334-4517.

Send Your Legislator Down the River - 2014 Registration Form

Please make checks payable to the Rock River Coalition. Send signed forms and payment to:

Rock River Coalition, ATTN SYLDR, 864 Collins Road, Jefferson WI 53549.

Registration can also be done on-line at <http://www.rockrivercoalition.org>. Payment is through PayPal.

For questions on registration call 920-342-0441

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Registration: Price includes canoe rental

adults attending RRC Member _____ @ \$20 \$ _____
 # adults attending not RRC Member _____ @ \$25 \$ _____
 # attending age 6-17 _____ @ \$10 \$ _____
 # attending age 5 or under _____ @ Free \$ 0
Late registration fee after Aug. 11, 2014 _____ \$5 \$ _____

RRC membership: _____ \$25 Individual, _____ \$35 Family,
 _____ \$15 Senior/Student _____ \$50 Affiliate/Small Business,
 _____ \$125 Municipal _____ \$200 Corporate \$ _____

Meal Choices - Price includes tip and tax

Buffalo Burger (Waukesha Cty) with cowboy hashbrowns _____ @ \$18 \$ _____
 Chicken & mashed potatoes _____ @ \$19 \$ _____

(Farm raised by restaurant owner) gluten free

Catfish (US farm raised) with cowboy hashbrowns _____ @ \$19 \$ _____
 Vegetarian Pasta Prima Vera (locally grown vegetables) _____ @ \$15 \$ _____

Note: seasonal vegetables instead of potatoes can be ordered on arrival.

Total Enclosed: _____ \$ _____

Other Information

_____ I will only be at the River Town Hall Meeting & dinner

What is your preferred paddle craft?

_____ # in Voyageur _____ # in canoe _____ # in boat (if available)

_____ I/We have a canoe/kayak which we will use,

_____ I/We have an extra space in our canoe.

_____ I am an elected official representing _____

In consideration of the "Sponsors" (as defined below) accepting this registration, I, the undersigned entrant, intending to be legally bound, do hereby agree not to sue and hereby waive and release all sponsors, governmental bodies, organizations, officials, elected officials and individuals associated with the 'Send Your Legislator Down the River' canoe and motor boat event (the "Event") and each of their respective officers, directors, employees, heirs, personal representatives, successors and assigns from any and all claims, actions, damages or injuries suffered or incurred by me or which arise out of my participation in the Event, unless caused by the willful misconduct of any of the Sponsors. I hereby agree to the use of my voice or picture or any other record of the Event for any purpose whatsoever. This release applies to and binds the undersigned entrant, his/her heirs, personal representatives, successors and assigns and is for the benefit of all of the Sponsors. This registration is invalid unless signed by the entrant. If entrant is under 18 years of age, the parent or legal guardian of the entrant must also sign the form.

Participant: _____ Age (if under 18): _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature (under 18): _____

Parent/Guardian (printed): _____

Date: _____

One hold harmless clause must be signed for each person attending. Extra forms will be available at the event.

Explore the Mysteries of Rock Lake - July 20

Area lakes abound with mysteries, and we're not talking about the pyramid of Rock Lake, Rock Lake has its own natural mysteries. The Rock River Coalition hosts the Rock Lake Water Tour in Lake Mills, Jefferson County on Sunday July 20. Registration will begin at 8:45 with participants pushing off into the lake around 9:15 on either a pontoon boat (provided) or their own paddle craft for a two hour tour.

The Coalition is highlighting area lakes in July as part of a year-long celebration of their 20th Anniversary. Rock Lake in Lake Mills is one of over 150 lakes in the Rock River Basin. It is known for its excellent water quality and natural beauty.

Not far from the launch site at Sandy Beach Park, is a carnivorous plant, not known by many, but is actually common in many Rock Basin lakes. Since the pontoon boats can't get into the nooks and crannies where this plant lives, the plant will be brought to the participants. However, with luck the participants will see rare fish species hiding amongst the lake plants including those with unusual names such as the pugnose shiner and the banded killifish.

Unfortunately, like all lakes in the basin the group will view unwanted

plants and animals invading our lakes and rivers and learn how they arrived via boats and fishing gear and what, if anything, can be done about them.



Early morning on Rock Lake.
Photo by James Kerler

If you've wanted to see Rock Lake fish up-close, then attend this unique water tour and see how aquatic biologist Dave Marshall, surveys near-shore fish with nets and electrofishing. Experts from the Department of Natural Resources will also demonstrate how lake water quality is sampled, and Patricia Cicero, Jefferson County's water resources specialist, will present the important role of aquatic plants to healthy lakes. Additional experts and topics are currently being confirmed.

In addition to Rock River Coalition, co-sponsors of the family-friendly event

include Jefferson County Land and Water Conservation Department, Rock Lake Improvement Association (RLIA), and Friends of the Glacial Heritage Area (GHA).

Event Details

Where: Sandy Beach Park at 345 Sandy Beach Road, Lake Mills.

Time: Registration begins at 8:45. Tour 9:15 - 11:15

Fee: \$10 per person (\$5 for members of RRC, RLIA, and Friends of GHA), and children under the age of 12 are free.

Pre-registration Required: Deadline July 15 by contacting Patricia Cicero patricia@rockrivercoalition.org or 920-674-7121. All participants—those with personal paddle craft and those wishing to ride on event pontoons—must register prior to the event. Space is limited.

We ask everyone attending and anyone who supports clean water to consider making a donation to the event sponsors to help further their missions toward healthy lakes and rivers and awareness of natural resources.

Our sponsors are extremely grateful for your support.

Hope to see you on the 20th!

Ecosystem Services and Flooding: Wisconsin and Rock River Basin Case Studies

By David Fowler, CFM, Senior Project Manager, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District

Flood losses in the United States can be expected to exceed \$20 billion annually in the coming years. However, until recently the economic assessments of flood damage, and actions to reduce flood damages only considered a narrow range of costs and benefits. This narrow scope precluded federal grant funding of innovative flood-risk reduction projects and hindered holistic flood management. It restricted practices that could counter both rising flood damages and provide a broader range of values in floodplain management.

This led to unsustainable flood management projects that undervalue natural systems' ability to mitigate flood hazards and resulted in the loss of valuable natural capital through the construction of levees, conveyance channels, and other structural means of flood risk mitigation.

With support from Earth Economics, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recently incorporated ecosystem service values in the benefit-cost analyses that determine eligibility for Flood Mitigation Grants.

This policy integrates the natural beneficial functions of floodplains into the Benefit Cost Analysis Toolkit used to evaluate acquisition mitigation projects. It is hoped that this policy change will be broadened to include all flood mitigation actions that enhance natural capital, including channel rehabilitation, levee setbacks, and green infrastructure applications for stormwater management.

These changes to the calculation of costs and benefits for flood mitigation projects could assist local governments as they struggle with funding and implementation of sustainable flood mitigation projects to reduce flood risk.

In spring 2013, Earth Economics (A Non-Profit Consulting Firm based in Seattle) received a two-year grant from the McKnight Foundation to evaluate the effect that ecosystem benefits could have in two mitigation case studies in Wisconsin.

The first, a stormwater mitigation project in the City of Portage located in the Wisconsin River watershed; the second, a property acquisition project in Jefferson County which is in the Rock River Watershed.

These projects had previously been denied for funding by FEMA. The grant will allow us consider the impacts and advance environmental benefits in Benefit -Cost Analysis for these projects based upon this recent change in FEMA policy.

Our partner in this project is the Association of State Floodplain Managers and with support from the Wisconsin Wetlands Association.

The proposed goals of this project are to:

1. Increase federal and state funding for nonstructural flood risk mitigation projects in the Rock River basin.
2. Increase familiarity with ecosystem service concepts and applications

among local, state and flood (emergency) management professionals in Wisconsin.

3. Enable local and state flood and emergency management professionals and stakeholders groups to use FEMA policy updates on cost benefit to fund innovative flood-risk reduction projects.
4. Educate local community about how to use natural capital valuation and concepts in decision making, federal grant applications and hazard mitigation planning.
5. Increase familiarity with ecosystem service concepts and applications to inform federal policy.
6. Provide Wisconsin communities beginning the flood risk mitigation process with case studies that include the value of wetlands and green infrastructure for flood protection.
7. Provide FEMA and Midwestern floodplain managers with a blueprint document to guide them through ecosystem service incorporation into planning work beyond the Risk MAP timeline.

As part of the grant the project team will be holding a public meeting with the Rock River Stakeholders including the Rock River Coalition this fall. The date, time and location have yet to be determined so stay tuned.

Guiding and Inspiring – Water Star Wisconsin Keeps Growing

Water Star Wisconsin has partnered with the Green Tier Legacy Program of the Wisconsin DNR to put on monthly municipal Sustainable Strategies webinars for 2014. The shows, which are free to municipal staff, the general public, educators and other non-profit affiliates, air from noon until 1 pm and can be seen from any computer with an internet connection.

There is a charge to cover the cost of the programming for professional consultants. They are also eligible to receive certificates of participation to submit for on-going credits to their professional organizations.

Water Star Wisconsin is designed to honor municipalities who do outstanding work to provide their communities with safe and abundant groundwater and lakes and streams protected from polluted runoff.

The upcoming programs are fascinating explorations into topics that affect all of our lives. Presentations are informative, image-rich and research-driven, pitched at a level for practitioners who handle these infrastructure challenges.

Takeaways for professionals are how-tos from case studies of best management practices; latest looks at applied research on topics of practical interest.

Takeaways for citizens and policy makers are deeper understandings of the day-to-day issues facing public works professionals and municipal staff.

Registration can be found at waterstarwisconsin.org.

July 17: Protecting Wisconsin's Waterways from Pharmaceutical Waste

Presenter: Barb Bickford, Medical Waste Coordinator, Waste & Materials Management program, DNR, Madison.

August 21: Deicing Methodologies and Products Comparative Study

Presenter: Stephen J. Druschel, PhD, PE, Associate Professor - Environmental Engineering Department of Mechanical and Civil Engineering Minnesota State Mankato

September 18: Municipal Stormwater Management in a Changing Climate - Impacts and Adaptation Strategies

Presenters 1&2: (1) David S. Liebl - UW-Extension Stormwater Specialist, Co-Chair of Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts (WICCI) Stormwater Working Group

(2) Bernard Lenz - Assistant City Engineer, City of La Crosse WI

For questions about the program, contact Andy Yencha, Water Star Coordinator, at 414-256-4631

Black Earth Creek Re-Meander Project

By Jay Osvatic, Biology Major at UW-Madison

In 2013, the Village of Cross Plains undertook an ambitious project to naturalize a segment of Black Earth Creek that runs through Zander Park. About 50 years ago this section of Black Earth Creek was channelized (straightened) all the way upstream to Hwy P to prevent flooding of railroad tracks and the adjacent Lagoon Street. The vision was to re-meander the stream to create a more natural channel shape, re-slope the stream banks and increase the diversity and quality of habitats for the fish and other inhabitants of the stream. A new channel was constructed on Black Earth Creek through Zander Park in Cross Plains and completed in June 2013.

Fish from the older abandoned channel were collected and placed into the new channel upon completion. According to Kurt Welke (Dane County Fisheries Manager for the WI DNR), the new fish population had already reached the desired level for high quality streams in the driftless area of Wisconsin (340 fish per mile) by July. However, because other aquatic inhabitants of streams were not relocated, an important question remained: What is the rate and pattern of recolonization by algae and macro-invertebrates in the newly re-meandered area of stream? Working under the guidance of UW-Madison faculty members Kara Cromwell, Bobbi Peckarsky and Rex Lowe, Erin Weinkauff and I (both UW-Madison biology majors), decided to address this question.

In September 2013, Erin and I collected data from 3 areas of Black Earth Creek: (1) the re-meandered section, (2) a site immediately upstream of the re-meandered section that remains channelized; and (3) a site immediately downstream of the re-meander that served as a naturally meandered reference site. In each area, we took samples in 3 riffles because of their importance as habitat to algae and macro-invertebrates, critical food resources for fish.

We sampled macro-invertebrates in each riffle for 1 minute using standard protocols – similar to those used by volunteer stream monitors. We identified the macro-invertebrates to the most specific level possible, usually species. We then compared average catch per unit effort and taxonomic richness among the areas of the stream (3 riffles each). These values are indicators of abundance and diversity, which can be reduced by habitat disturbance.

We also completed a standard periphyton assessment using a plexiglass viewing box,

with equal size squares on it, to estimate the percentage of cover of a streambed by algae in each riffle. A periphyton assessment uses random samples of a stream area to estimate the coverage of algae by comparing the number of plexiglass squares covered with macroalgae, when you are looking at the streambed through the plexiglass. It is a relative test; the health of the area is gauged by comparison to the other sites of the area. The average percent cover of macroscopic algae was compared among the re-meander vs. upstream channelized and downstream reference meanders to estimate the recovery of the re-meandered section.



Sampling by Erin Weinkauff (above) and by Jay Osvatic and Rex Lowe (below), help to show the value of the stream meandering project.

Our results indicate that the diversity of macro-invertebrates had already recovered to levels found in the reference areas after only three months of colonization. According to the general macro-invertebrate sampling, there was no significant difference in the taxonomic richness among the three sample areas. However, the average catch per unit effort was lowest in the upstream (channelized) area, followed by the re-meandered area, and the downstream reference site had the highest abundance of macro-invertebrates. Therefore, three months of recolonization was sufficient for the re-meander, which had no macroinvertebrates in July, to achieve channelized levels of macro-invertebrates but not sufficient for it to achieve levels similar to the downstream reference area.

The macroscopic algae coverage showed a different trend, with the lowest percent cover in the newly constructed re-meander, followed by the upstream (channelized) section, both of which had algae cover lower than the downstream reference. Therefore, more time is needed for the algae to recover in the re-meandered stretch of stream, which will be important for it to achieve full recovery.



Become a RRC Member

In addition to supporting RRC work, members receive newsletters, notices of conferences, and special events. To become a member, complete the following:

Name _____

Title _____

Affiliation _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone (____) _____

E-mail _____

I am a member of _____ Chapter.

Memberships Fees

Individual	\$ 25
Family	\$ 35
Student/Senior Citizen	\$ 15
Classroom	\$ 25
Affiliates*	\$ 50
Municipal**	\$125
Corporate	\$ 200

*Includes small businesses, organizations, lake districts, small municipalities and individual municipal departments
 **Covers entire municipality including all departments, administrative staff and elected officials

Any donation or membership of \$150 or more will be recognized and linked to your website from our website: www.rockrivercoalition.org

Donors of \$500 or greater will receive an ad in this newsletter. Check out our website for more information.

Tax Deductible Donations

Amount	Purpose
	General Support
	Citizen Monitoring
	Other:

Donations are greatly appreciated and can be targeted towards specific projects.

Please mail this completed form with check to:

Rock River Coalition
 864 Collins Rd
 Jefferson, WI 53549

or register and pay online with PayPal at:
www.rockrivercoalition.org/membership.asp



RRC Birthday Celebration Come Join the Party!

November 2, 3:00 - 7:00ish

Koshkonong Mounds Country Club

W7670 Koshkonong Mounds Rd, Fort Atkinson

Music by Cajun Stranger from 3:00 - 5:00

Dinner at 5:00

Program at 6:00

Cake cutting at 7:00

Cost \$40/person

Program:

Thank You to Past Presidents and Board Members

Volunteer monitor recognition

A look to our past and dreams for the future

Preview of new interactive web map

Kickoff announcement of a unique 2015 event

Wanted: Volunteer to scan our old photos and newspaper clippings for a display at our party. Contact Suzanne at 608-334-4517.

Become a Sponsor:

Sponsor level \$150 - \$249 Logo and link on our website. One ticket to either SYLDR or the 20th Anniversary Celebration.

Sponsor level \$250 - \$499 Above plus: Acknowledgment at our 20th Anniversary Celebration and name in the program. Two tickets to either SYLDR or the 20th Anniversary Celebration.

Sponsor level \$500 - \$999 Above plus: Logo in the 20th Anniversary program Name and logo in 20th Anniversary event mailings. Business card sized ad in our newsletter. Four tickets to either SYLDR or the 20th Anniversary Celebration.

Donors at the \$1,000 level and above All the above plus: Personal briefing by the RRC President. Eight tickets to either SYLDR or one table (eight seats) at the 20th Anniversary Celebration.



Stream monitors are out at stream sites throughout the basin gathering important information on our water quality. More photos on Page 4.



The Mauneshia River Alliance held its annual river clean up Saturday, May 17. 30+ volunteers made the Mauneshia River in Waterloo much more beautiful for all to enjoy this summer.

Photo courtesy of The Courier

Two New Chapters Sign Charters at Annual Meeting



Above Johnson Creek Watershed Alliance Chair Peter Hartz and RRC President sign the charter to become a new Chapter.

Below Matt Ziaja Mauneshia River Alliance Chair signs their charter along with RRC President Patricia Cicero. Photos by Clare Carlson



The RRC will be at the River Fest, celebrating our 20 years with the Carry Creek, a search for critters in the river and the Enviroscape Model. Come on out and enjoy the fun.



The Rock River Stormwater Group toured construction sites in Whitewater after a storm and found muddy water due to site erosion.

Learn what they're doing about it on Page 1!