



# Lake Management Planning

## Winnebago Waterways Steering Committee Meeting

Date: Friday, October 12th, 2018

Time: 10:00am to 12:00pm

Conference Call (see text box for call-in information)

Facilitator: Korin Doering, Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance, [korin@fwwa.org](mailto:korin@fwwa.org), (920) 851-0948

Attendees: Dani Santry, Jessica Schultz, Chad Casper, Kendall Kamke, Ted Johnson, Bob Schmeichel, Alan Weir, Todd Wahler



## Meeting Notes:

### 10:00am - Introductions

- Brief introduction of attendees
- Updates from around the system
  - Clean Bay Backers
    - Citizens advisory committee for Green Bay Area of Concern (AOC)
    - 5<sup>th</sup> annual Elected Official and Community Leader Tour
    - Consider recommending replicating this in the plan for the Winnebago System
  - Waushara County
    - In the process of collecting groundwater samples from residents
    - Still seeing high levels of nitrates
    - Working in possible remedies and courses of action
  - Army Corps Water Level Strategy meeting
    - Held October 10<sup>th</sup>; went well
  - FDL Phragmites herbicide spraying has begun
    - Starting at Supples Marsh and working north (not sure how far)
    - Railroad is also participating across from Supples Marsh
    - County led project? Support from DNR (Brock Woods)?
    - Chris Acy – look into project; write article?
  - DNR Sturgeon projects
    - Spawning habitat
    - Shawano Dam
  - Asylum Bay tree projects to improve shoreline
  - Winnebago County
    - Rotary club – installing rain gardens
      - \$500 project; \$250 from county and \$250 from rotary club
    - Weather is holding up many projects that are ready to go; lots of water from rain
- Review of notes and action items from the last meeting
  - Korin Doering

- COMPLETE: Send Steering Committee a request for ideas for people to invite to be part of the Community Engagement Team
  - IN PROGRESS: website updates
- Austin Pethan (FWWA)
  - IN PROGRESS: Write and share an article that explains what wetland permits are and the permitting process if someone wants to make a change to a wetland. Include information on how people can get information on wetland permit applications. Describe the benefits of wetlands and the permitting process.
    - Send to Steering Committee for review before publication
  - IN PROGRESS: Include information on our website for people interested in getting info about wetland permits (include link in Winnebago Waterways HUB)
  - COMPLETE: Once list of recreation questions is complete, draft and distribute a press release asking people for input on how people use the lakes and what they would like to see improved for recreational lake use.
  - Will begin on 10/16/18: Promote the questions online and at future outreach events.
- Chad Casper and Ted Johnson
  - COMPLETE: Complete emergent plant mapping for in-lake emergent plant beds
    - Take photos of emergent mapping efforts and send to Austin
      - Check with Andy if he has any action shots
      - Check with Ted

## 10:20am – Water Levels

- Update on water level progress for LMP
  - Requested and received ideas and input for three scenarios for improved water level management
  - Used that input to develop draft recommendations
  - Held meeting on October 4<sup>th</sup>
    - Had seven people in attendance representing shoreline property owners, habitat, water quality, DNR, and Appleton water utility.
  - During the meeting, we reviewed the draft recommendations and made changes based on feedback from the group
  - After the meeting, Korin revised draft 1 and sent it to the group for their review
  - Korin plans to schedule another meeting to discuss draft v2, draft goals for each water level target in the drawdown/refill strategy, and list risks for overshooting and undershooting each target
- Summary of Army Corps fall regulations meeting
  - Meeting went well. The Army Corps changed up their usual fall meeting format and led a group exercise.
  - Korin informed them of our intentions for the lake management plan
    - “we are pulling together a consortium of users to draft a slightly modified version of the drawdown/refill schedule based on data and public input. Our goal is to see improvement in water quality in the lakes. We want to invite the ACE to participate. We also invite other users to join the conversation.”
  - Korin also shared the draft modified version of the drawdown/refill schedule during the group exercise.

- The Army Corps would like to participate in our discussions and felt it was worth holding a second fall meeting. They said they will plan to host a conference call in mid-November. The date is TBD.
- Public outreach document
  - Lots of interest in 2010 because of plant growth
    - Ted – want to be prepared for when we do see a big plant year; need to have a strategy in place to manage for plant growth in areas where excessive plants are a nuisance.
  - Lots of interest in 2018 because of BGA blooms
  - Relationship between plants, BGA, and water levels
    - Need more plants to see improvements in water quality but also need a management strategy in place for aquatic plants where a nuisance
  - Good and bad plants – define both
    - EWM hybrids
  - Need outreach materials for people about managing aquatic plants
  - Work to build partnerships with tourism and boating groups
    - Managing expectations and communicating management options

## 10:50am – Project Updates

- Management topics/tech team updates:
  - Water Quality
    - *Review draft spreadsheet for comprehensive water quality monitoring plan*
      - Attended meeting with DNR and UW-Oshkosh to discuss opportunities to partner
        - Volunteers?
        - Cost of processing samples in their lab?
        - Funding opportunities?
        - Student interns?
        - Locations for monitoring?
      - Continued to work with Ian from DNR to develop monitoring plan
        - Ian is collecting ideas for additional locations to add to the plan
    - *Citizen reporting network – blue-green algae*
      - *Contacted Clean Lakes Alliance to learn about their citizen reporting program*
        - <https://lakeforecast.org/#/>
      - *Plan to meet with ‘Swim Guide’ to learn about their website and app*
        - <https://www.theswimguide.org/>
      - *Goal: have enough information to recommend a plan of action for developing a network of volunteers who can report blue-green algae sightings and severity. This would give people an opportunity to find out, in real-time, where BGA blooms are occurring on the lakes so they can avoid those locations.*
  - Watershed Management - update from Jessica
    - Met with counties to collect information about subwatersheds
      - Collected a pile of plans that have already been written
        - Most HUC12s have had Priority Watershed plans written
      - Plan is to pull out information from existing plans that is still relevant
        - Ex: background information
      - Subwatersheds that have significant stream bank contributions

- Haven't been able to do much implementation on those stream banks since priority watershed plans were written
  - Still a problem
  - Will only need to do stream bank inventories on a handful of subwatersheds
- For TMDL, each county was asked to take a look at crop rotations and types of farming at HUC12 scale.
  - Walked through each HUC12 (what was reported in 2014 for TMDL) to see if those numbers were still relevant
  - Collected updated numbers – those numbers will be used for modeling workshop
- TMDL was not done at a HUC12 scale; for implementation it is critical information is broken down to HUC12 scale; CADMUS is working to do that now
  - Hoping to see that in the coming months from the DNR
  - Once we have that information, we will hold a workshop for modeling with the counties
  - Until then, we will begin writing background information
- Recreation (surveys)
  - *Austin added safety related questions to the recreation surveys per Mark Harris request.*
  - *We decided to go with two surveys instead of one – one survey for boaters and a second for paddlers*
  - *Paddling and boating surveys were published online – Facebook, twitter, Instagram, press release will be sent on Tuesday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018*
  - *Links to online article: <http://fwwa.org/2018/10/11/do-you-get-out-on-the-winnebago-lakes-we-want-to-hear-from-you/>*
  - *Postcard for people to hand out or set out at office*
  - *Recreation survey also serves as a great outreach and engagement tool to ensure boaters and paddlers feel their voices are being heard in planning process*
- Shoreline Practices
  - *Shoreline erosion inventory*
    - Processed georeferenced photos
    - Received database of data collected during surveys in all three counties
    - Working with UW-Oshkosh to see if there is a student interested in helping tabulating the results and writing a brief summary
    - Andy from Winnebago County will be adding photos from the FDL inventory to their Historic Shoreline Data viewer
  - *Shoreline property owners survey*
    - *430 responses, 43% response rate (as of 10/11), survey closes 10/15, analysis to start soon*
- Aquatic Plant Management
  - *Aquatic plant surveys (submergent)*
    - FWWA received results and report for aquatic plant surveys for Winneconne and Poygan
      - Korin will review those items and follow-up with Cason if additional information is needed (GIS data, etc.)

- *The reports for Winnebago and Butte des Morts are not due until the end of December*
- *Subcontractors will present their results once we have reports for all four lakes*
- *Emergent mapping (Ted)*
  - *Field work is complete.*
  - *Drone data needs to be processed – will take a few weeks or more*
  - *County is waiting for GIS department to upgrade software before they can process drone data*
  - *Point data sent to DNR by Winnebago County*
- *Aquatic Invasive Species (strategic plan)*
  - *✓ Transport vectors section draft complete*
  - *✓ Existing AIS Efforts Section draft complete*
  - *✓ Description, NR40, LMP Process complete*
  - *AIS Species in WW and Threatening AIS draft complete by mid-November*
  - *Background and Purpose and Introduction complete by mid-November*
  - *Management Strategies and Plan Updates complete by mid-November*
- *Community Engagement*
  - *Any additional recommendations for the Community Engagement team?*

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Dr. Susan	May	FVTC	
Craig	Moletar	Visitors and Convention Bureau	
Gary	Wisbrocker	President of the Waushara County Watershed Lakes Council	

- *Organization questionnaire is complete and distribution began this week. Our goal is to have enough responses by the middle of December to draft a matrix of organizational interest/capacity.*
  - *The goal of the questionnaire is to gain a better understanding of the interest and capacity of organizations/clubs from around the Winnebago Lakes to implement management recommendations outlined in the LMP.*
    - *We will use their responses to develop a database of organizations around the lakes*
  - *We will also create a matrix that can be quickly referenced by people interested in partnering with other organizations on implementation projects.*
  - *Why is this important?*
    - *Once we have an approved lake management plan for the Winnebago Lakes, organizations and clubs can work together to apply for funding to tackle issues or projects listed in the LMP.*

- *We want these organizations to know about the opportunities that will be opening up when we get to implementation and how they fit into the big picture of working together as a region to tackle the big lake issues.*
- Habitat
  - Collecting GIS layers for wetlands/grasslands analysis
- Project Outreach, Engagement, and Communications
  - Events/meetings planned
    - Winnebago On Tap!
      - <http://fwwa.org/2018/10/04/winnebago-on-tap/>
      - November 29<sup>th</sup> at Becket's in Oshkosh, 7:00pm to 8:00pm
      - December 6<sup>th</sup> at The Bar in Appleton, 7:00pm to 8:00pm
  - Events/meetings attended since 9/20/18
    - Fox Cities Book Festival ~15 contacts (exhibited)
    - Winnebagoland Conservation Alliance ~30 contacts (spoke to the group)
    - FDL Yacht Club ~100 contacts (spoke to the group)
    - Wisconsin Waterfowl Association Hunters Bash - exhibited
    - Winnebago County LWCD committee meeting (presentation)
  - Upcoming events/meetings
    - Habitattitude Surrender event – 10/13/18
    - Winnebagoland Conservation Alliance meeting – 10/18/18
    - UW-Fox Valley presentation – 10/29/18
  - E-newsletter
    - *September edition (what was sent out)*
      - *Soil Health for Lake Health*
      - *Rusty Crayfish AIS Spotlight*
      - *LMP Project Update*
      - *FDL Shoreline Inventory,*
      - *ACE Water Level Meeting notice*
      - *Aquatic Plant Survey article*
      - *Steering Committee Meeting notice/notes*
    - *October edition (what is planned so far)*
      - *Rec survey article*
      - *Waterfowl Hunters*
      - *Steering Committee Meeting notice/notes*
      - *LMP Project Update*
      - *Winnebago On Tap!*
      - *WI Conservation Congress needs your help!*
      - *WI Waterfowl Association helps to stop AIS*
  - Social Media
    - Facebook (over the last 28 days): 103 page views (21 % increase), 2504 people reached, 18 page likes

	1/2/2018	6/4/2018	7/12/2018	8/9/2018	9/24/2018	10/12/2018
<b>Facebook</b>	253	376	394	400	425	434
<b>Instagram</b>	---	30	51	61	91	101
<b>Twitter</b>	65	77	80	81	84	83
<b>Newsletter</b>	863	898	896	796	870	832

- Other

- Paddling/boating surveys completed
- Org surveys in distribution
- Winnebago HUB halfway complete (partnered with Endless Shores)

### 11:30am – Public Comment

No members of the public were present.

### 11:30am – Meeting wrap-up

- Other updates, events, trainings, and/or workshops?
- Upcoming Steering Committee meetings:
  - Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, from 10am to 12pm (in-person)
    - J.P. Coughlin Center
    - 625 E County Road Y, Oshkosh, WI
    - Room D
  - Friday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, from 10am to 12pm (conference call)
  - Friday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, from 10am to 12pm (in-person – location TBD)

### 11:35 – Meeting close