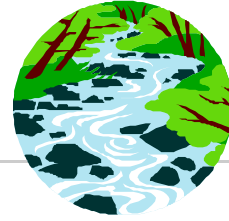


September, 2002

# Running Waters

Newsletter of the

Central Wisconsin Basin Partnership



Volume 4, Issue 3

## MANAGED FOREST LAW IN WISCONSIN

Submitted by Jeremiah Auer

Everyone that owns or is about to own a parcel of woodland in Wisconsin has decided or is deciding what they want from their property. Will the property produce wood products, promote wildlife habitat, act as a recreation area, or be a combination of these and others. However, many people never foresee how much their “little piece of the planet” will change in the future. Trees grow, animal needs change throughout their life cycles, weather disrupts the forest’s dynamics, and people’s thoughts and feelings change. In Wisconsin there is a way to coordinate a landowner’s current and future goals and forest needs while providing monetary reward. It is the Managed Forest Law (MFL).

There are many benefits to having your property in the MFL program. Property taxes are low, predictable and protected against annual increases. The land benefits from having a professional forester work with you to create a sound management plan. This will promote healthy forest communities, protect trees from over cutting, and provide for future forest growth and tree development. A professional forester can provide the technical assistance you need to accomplish your property goals.

The MFL program offers a lot of flexibility to landowners. There are two options within MFL. A landowner can allow public

access and pay \$0.83 per acre or can choose to close a maximum of 80 acres from the public, at a slightly higher tax rate of \$1.95 per acre. These rates are adjusted ever 5 years, with the current rates effective 2003-2007. On land open to the public a landowner must allow hunting, fishing, cross-country skiing, sight seeing and hiking, but can restrict motorized traffic and some other activities. There is also a choice between contract lengths, 25 or 50 years.

The MFL has some requirements of the landowner. A landowner must follow the management plan agreed upon by the landowner and forester. He/she must also submit a cutting notice before and after any harvest and provide an accurate summary of volumes of timber harvested. There is a yield tax of 5%, based on current stumpage values, that needs to be paid after a mandatory harvest. A property may need monitoring in the future so landowners need to allow for future inspections. It is also important that landowners provide for protection of endangered resources, waterways, and follow Wisconsin’s list of best management practices.

There are some restrictions to properties entering the MFL program. A parcel must be at least 10 contiguous acres of forestland over 120-ft wide. The property must also be capable of producing over 20 cubic ft of timber per acre per year (this requirement is only limiting on very (*continued on page 3*))

### Inside this issue:

<i>Managed Forest Law in Wisconsin</i>	1
<i>Barrier Islands</i>	2
<i>Meet the New Basin Educator</i>	2
<i>Managed Forest Law in Wisconsin—Continued</i>	3
<i>Partnership Update</i>	3
<i>Upcoming Events</i>	3

### Articles of Special Interest

- *MFL*
- *Barrier Islands*
- *Meet the new Central Wisconsin Basin Educator*

## Barrier Islands Project on the Petenwell Flowage Submitted by Jason Folstad

Petenwell Flowage on the Wisconsin River, located in Adams and Juneau counties, exists within what was once part of Glacial Lake Wisconsin. The shorelines of Petenwell are susceptible to erosion from wind and wave action, boat activity, and fluctuating water levels. Seasonal draw-downs each winter also impact the shoreline as ice movement along the shore can de-stabilize soil and erosion control structures.

Wisconsin Public Service (WPS), majority owner of Petenwell Flowage shoreline, has been stabilizing highly eroded shoreline for several years. The eastern shoreline has several areas that need implementation of erosion control practices. These areas have 30-40 foot high banks lacking vegetation. Erosion control in these areas would require extensive grading and planting or seeding native vegetation.

Construction of barrier islands is a potential method to stabilize the shoreline without disturbing the present shoreline area. The islands are constructed by placing rock riprap and other course materials onto the bed of the flowage. The shoreline is protected against erosion as the islands dissipate wave energy before reaching the shoreline.

Shallow water areas created between the islands and the shoreline will also allow aquatic vegetation to become

established, thereby improving fish and wildlife habitat, and water quality. Winter water-level draw-down freezes shallow water aquatic vegetation. The lack of aquatic vegetation is one limiting factor in maintaining/increasing healthy fish populations.

Other benefits of barrier islands include: increased protection of existing wetlands; aid navigation near marinas, and serve as diversionary buffers against the accumulation of blue-green algae.

The Basin Partnership is promoting a cooperative group composed of interested parties and agencies that can analyze and develop the barrier islands project that will not only address the shoreline erosion problem, but also assess recreational needs and effects on the physical and chemical composition of the lake. Meetings are currently underway with the Wisconsin DNR, Army Corp of Engineers, and WPS to determine if developing barrier islands on the Petenwell Flowage is within State and Federal status. Other topics of discussion at these meetings are: who would be responsible for the installation, maintenance of the barrier islands, and what other liability factors are associated with this type of project.

To become involved in the barrier island project contact Kris Wimme, UW-Extension Basin Educator.

## Meet the Central Wisconsin River Basin Educator Submitted by Kris Wimme

Greetings. I was hired as the Central Wisconsin River Basin Educator on August 15, 2002, and I'm looking forward to working with the Partnership, as well as addressing educational needs pertaining to natural resources in the central Wisconsin River basin. I hope that we will have the opportunity to meet in the near future so that I can get your input on pertinent issues, or concerns you may have.

Let me provide a brief background of who I am and my experience: I'm a Stevens Point/Plover native and graduated from UW-Stevens Point with a major in Forest Management. I completed my Masters degree at Virginia Tech. My thesis pertained to site disturbance and machine performance with rubber-tired logging equipment on wetland pine sites in Georgia.

I've spent the past 16 years working in forest industry, most recently as Tree Farm Family Supervisor with Stora Enso (formerly Consolidated Papers). My interests include bicycling, hunting, and old Case tractors.



**KRIS WIMME**  
CENTRAL WISCONSIN  
RIVER BASIN EDUCATOR

## Cont. Managed Forest Law in Wisconsin

poor quality sites). The total land area must also be more than 80 % forested. Active cropland and pastureland are not allowed in the MFL program. The MFL program can be a great tool for Wisconsin landowners to responsibly manage their property. However, the MFL program is just one of a number of state programs a landowner has available to benefit themselves, their property, and their community. There may be a deadline for applications so contact your local DNR forester or consultant forester for more information on programs available in your area.

*Jeremiah Auer, is a Wisconsin DNR Forester Trainee located at the Wisconsin Rapids Service Center.*

## Upcoming Events

### Multiple Benefits of Forest Management Planning

Parkside School in Wautoma

*Saturday, September 21st, 2002*

Topics will include benefits of forest land management, developing a forest management plan, technical and educational assistance, exotic and endangered species and tree planting.

Contact Golden Sands RC&D at 715/343-6215.

### Wisconsin Tree Farm Tour and Workshop

Paul and Delores Novachek Tree Farm near Mishicot

*Saturday, October 5th, 2002*

Topics will include Tree Farm Certification, Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year program, management of red pine, northern hardwoods, swamp hardwoods, and a small band sawmill. \$15/person with children under 10 free. A children's activity area will be provided.

Contact the WI Tree Farm Committee at 715/369-3475 or

[wfpcc@newnorth.net](mailto:wfpcc@newnorth.net)

### Central Wisconsin Basin Partnership

Wood County Courthouse Auditorium

*Wednesday, October 16th, 2002*

9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Contact Kris Wimme for more information

### Waters of Wisconsin Forum

Monona Terrace Convention Center in Madison.

*October 21-22, 2002*

Statewide public forum to share information.

Contact [www.wisconsinacademy.org](http://www.wisconsinacademy.org)

### Rivers 2002 A Watershed Event

River Alliance of Wisconsin Annual Meeting

*November 8-10 2002*

Loins Camp, Rosholt, Wisconsin

Call (608) 441-8413 for more information.

## Highlights from our last Partnership meeting

Submitted by Kris Wimme

The Central Wisconsin Partnership convened at the Town of Monroe, Town hall in Adams County on Wednesday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2002.

Scot Ironside, Fisheries Biologist with the Department of Natural Resources, started with a brief discussion on the history of the Barrier Islands concept. Since WPS currently owns the bed of the Petenwell Flowage, it would be WPS's responsibility to fill out the proper applications for DNR and Army Corp. permits. Tom Jerow with the WIDNR stated that there would be very little conflict of interest with approving the applications since the Barrier Islands would be state owned property and would benefit fish habitat reef development of the Petenwell Flowage.

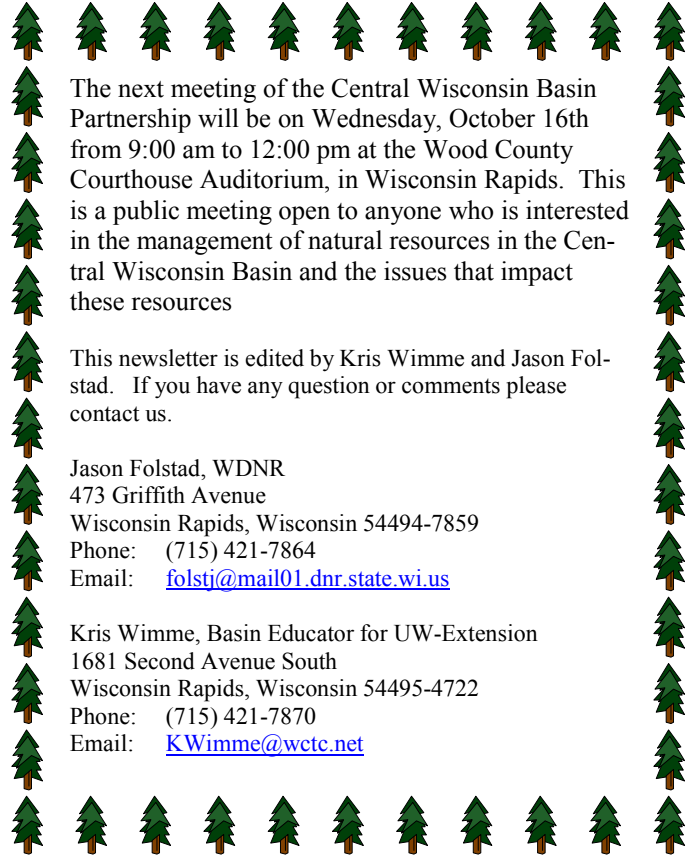
With the FERC re-licensing of WPS for the operations/control of dams on the Wisconsin River, WPS is required to develop an erosion control plan for Petenwell Flowage. The partnership, Petenwell – Castlerock Property Owners Association along with the WIDNR would like to see a Barrier Islands Project incorporated in WPS's erosion control plan, which overall would reduce the amount of erosion occurring in and around the Petenwell Flowage.

The Plover River Alliance/Golden Sands RC&D was denied the DNR River Planning Grant. Also, during the Governors last vetoing session, Gov. Scott McCallum vetoed the Stewardship Funding for the Plover River. Currently the Alliance is in the process of accessing a grant for lakeshore restoration on Jordan Pond, which is located on the Plover River.

Denise Kilkenny-Tittle, Coordinator of the Wisconsin Groundwater Guardian program, discussed the program and encouraged participation to help protect the groundwater resource. The GG program is sponsored by the Groundwater Foundation based in Lincoln, Nebraska. The intent of the Wisconsin GG program is to develop a statewide, grassroots-type groundwater awareness and protection effort at the local level. Currently there are seven GG communities in Wisconsin. Through greater involvement and increased community support, addressing our groundwater concerns and problems on a larger scale can become a reality.

After lunch at the Lure Bar on the shores of the Petenwell Flowage, the members boarded pontoon boats to view possible locations for Barrier Islands in and along the shorelines of the Petenwell Flowage. The trip lasted approximately two hours and was enjoyed by all.

**The purpose of the Central Wisconsin Basin Partnership is to bring diverse people and resources together to provide increased awareness of regionally important natural resource issues. The partnership facilitates and implements projects that promote ecologically, socially, and economically sustainable natural resource management.**



The next meeting of the Central Wisconsin Basin Partnership will be on Wednesday, October 16th from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at the Wood County Courthouse Auditorium, in Wisconsin Rapids. This is a public meeting open to anyone who is interested in the management of natural resources in the Central Wisconsin Basin and the issues that impact these resources

This newsletter is edited by Kris Wimme and Jason Folstad. If you have any question or comments please contact us.

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