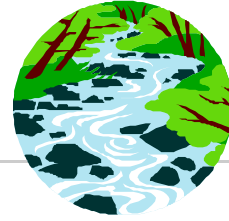


Running Waters

Newsletter of the

Central Wisconsin Basin Partnership



Volume 3, Issue 4

River Basins in the spotlight - Bloody Run Creek

Submitted by Jason Folstad

Bloody Run Creek is a seven-mile stream that flows into Nepco Lake. The lower three miles of the stream supports a Class I brook trout fishery and is classified as exceptional resource water. The classification of the remaining four miles is unknown. Trout have been reported in the upstream reaches when water is present. The lower stream reach has moderate brook trout densities with natural reproduction. Limiting factors to in-stream habitat include; stream-bank erosion, shallow channel depth and the lack of pools, riffles, coarse substrate and fish cover. During low precipitation years, baseflow of the stream is reduced and the furthest upstream reaches are sometimes dry.



Photograph taken in the fall of 1999. Supplied by Jack Zimmerman, WDNR.

Streamflow of Bloody Run Creek has been impacted by a Municipal well located adjacent to the stream. In 1991, the City of Wisconsin Rapids installed a well within 1,500 feet of Bloody Run Creek to supply water for the city. Prior to the well pumping, the stream in this reach would experience weak baseflow conditions, however water was usually present in the stream. After the well began pumping in 1991, the stream has been reported dry on several occasions and frequently has no flow. A hydrologic study completed in 1991 predicted that well pumping during an average year

would reduce streamflow near the well location by approximately 70%. Streamflow was also reduced by approximately 45% on average at downstream reaches. A significant reduction of streamflow impacts aquatic life by decreasing the amount of "living space" for organisms, reducing spawning areas and increasing water temperatures of cold-water communities. The complete de-watering of a stream obviously provides no habitat for aquatic species.

The Department of Natural Resources is currently working with the Wisconsin Rapids Water Utility, Town of Grand Rapids and local citizens to reduce the impacts of the well and find solutions that will maintain appropriate water levels in the stream that are protective of aquatic life.

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Articles of Special Interest

- *River Basin Spotlight*
- *Groundwater Summit*

A CITY SET FOR THE FUTURE

Submitted by Ron Dickrell

Sanitary sewer system overflows during heavy rain events prompted the City of Marshfield to evaluate corrective alternatives. One major factor contributing to the overflows was that the wastewater treatment plant was under peak capacity. Rain event flows came sometimes at a 30 million gallons per day rate, yet the treatment plant was sized to receive only an 11 million gallon per day rate.

In 1997, the Common Council approved constructing a brand new wastewater treatment plant on a new site. Construction began in April 1998 and concluded in May 2000.

The new plant can now treat a 30 million gallon per day peak flow rate during rain events and nearly 5 million gallons per day normal flows. The new plant was designed to remove BOD, suspended solids, phosphorus, and nitrogen well below DNR required levels. This as-

sured the city accommodation for future growth and meeting future discharge requirements. Many unique pieces of equipment and design efficiencies were incorporated into the new plant.

The State of Wisconsin Clean Water Fund provided funding for the project. The final cost of the project was 22.8 million dollars or about 2 million dollars under estimate.

We encourage you to make an appointment to take a tour of this new state-of-the-art facility. Just call Ron Dickrell at 591.2022 to make an appointment.



Wisconsin's Groundwater Summit

Submitted by George Rogers

High-capacity wells are useful. In Central Wisconsin, that's where your drinking water comes from. It's also how irrigators grow the vegetables you eat and it's what brought Del Monte, McCain and other food processors here.

Those wells tap a bountiful supply of groundwater, but bountiful doesn't mean unlimited.

For a long time there was no real dialogue on the issue of ground water consumption, even though heavy pumping has, in some parts of the state, lowered the water table to the point where cities such as Green Bay have had to draw their water from Lake Michigan.

In this area, we've seen how municipal groundwater wells have affected the Little Plover River and threatened its existence as a trout stream. Fortunately, the village of Plover responded by siting a new well outside the stream's recharge area.

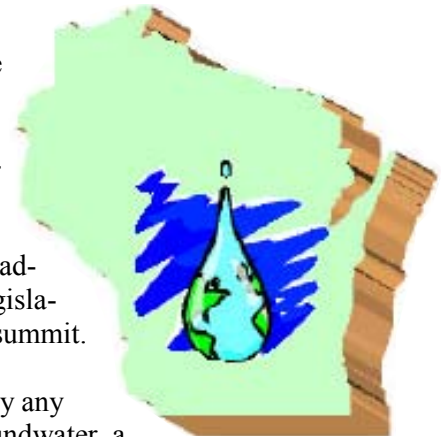
Now, irrigators, conservationists and water scientists are sitting down at the same table. At the recent state Groundwater Summit in Waukesha, Todd Ambs of the River Alliance of Wisconsin and Michael Carter of the Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Growers Association

said they're talking about changes in the way Wisconsin regulates ground water. The Groundwater Coordinating Council, a statutory body that acts as an adviser to the state Legislature, sponsored the summit.

Wisconsin has hardly any laws regulating groundwater, a fact that surprised many people when Perrier, the water bottler, talked about putting in a well at the headwaters of the Mekan River, a prized trout stream. That got everyone's attention, and Ambs of the River Alliance said the Potato & Vegetable Growers group got the ball rolling.

Neither Ambs nor Carter promised overnight success, but the fact that they're talking is a quantum leap.

Long term, proper allocation water is needed by agriculture, industry, municipalities, the tourism industry and those who fish, swim and drink water. In short, all of us.



Groundwater Guardian Program

Submitted by University of Wisconsin Extension

New groundwater guardian program coordinator will work to educate public about groundwater. Denise Kilkenny-Tittle is the new Statewide Groundwater Guardian Program Coordinator at the University of Wisconsin-Extension Central Wisconsin Groundwater Center in the College of Natural Resources at UW-Stevens Point.

Groundwater Guardian is a national program that connects and recognizes communities that take action to protect groundwater and educate the public about groundwater. The Groundwater Guardian program is sponsored by the Groundwater Foundation in Lincoln, Nebraska.

“Groundwater supplies drinking water for 95 percent of Wisconsin communities,” Kilkenny-Tittle said. “But we’re seeing increasing problems for some communities with groundwater quality. In addition, some communities are faced with declining water levels in their wells. So it’s natural that people would want to come together to help protect groundwater, and the Groundwater Guardian program is an easy and organized way to do that.”

Kilkenny-Tittle will be recruiting new communities into the program and facilitating communication among the seven Wisconsin communities already participating. These communities include Eau Claire County, Chippewa Falls, Marathon County, Waukesha, Green Bay, Portage County, and Marshfield.

This new position was made possible by a \$33,100 grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

For more information about the Groundwater Guardian program or the Portage County groundwater website at www.uwsp.edu/water/portage, contact Denise Kilkenny-Tittle at (715) 346-2722, or at dkilkenn@uwsp.edu.

Highlights from our last Partnership meeting

Submitted by John DuPlissis

The Central Wisconsin Partnership convened at the Marshfield Wastewater Treatment Facility on Wednesday, October 17th, 2001. Reports from the Working Groups included that the Yellow River working group has suspended all activities until the conflict between the Necedah National Wildlife Refuge and the Yellow River Properties Owners Association come to an agreement on the Yellow River Focus Area. There was good news for the Barrier Island working group. A public hearing was held by the DNR to consider an administrative rule change on breakwater structures.

The Partner Team also heard reports from each of the new project teams. Each of these teams are actively involved in identifying stakeholders and other interested groups to see if there is energy in the community to address these issues and to identify a project champion to lead each project.

Ron Dickrell, Superintendent of the Marshfield Wastewater Facility, led the Central Wisconsin Basin Partnership members on a tour of the wastewater facility.

The Central Wisconsin Basin Partnership is currently sending out a By-laws draft to all the members along with the agenda for the next meeting. The By-laws committee met to bring together a working draft that could be handed out for comments and changes before the next partnership meeting. The By-laws committee determine the partnership would not become a non-profit organization but a not for profit organization.

The partnership web site, sponsored by University of Wisconsin Extension, is currently up and running. We welcome you to come visit our web site and send us any comments or questions that you have about it. The site address is <http://clean-water.uwex.edu.centralwis>

Upcoming Events

CENTRAL WISCONSIN BASIN PARTNERSHIP

Rome Town Hall
Wednesday, January 16th, 2002
9:00 am to 12:00 pm
Contact John DuPlissis for more information

WISCONSIN LAKES CONVENTION

How's the Water?
March 7-9, 2002
Regency Suites, Green Bay
Call (715) 346-2116 for more information.

WISCONSIN PARK AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION

SPRING CONFERENCE

Trails: Connecting People, Places & Open Spaces
Alliant Energy Center
Madison
April 10 - 12, 2002
For more information contact
Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association
6601 C Northway
Greendale, WI 53129

Central Wisconsin Basin Partnership

Working Together for Conservation

473 Griffith Avenue
Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin 54494-7859

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.



WORKING TOGETHER FOR CONSERVATION

The next meeting of the Central Wisconsin Basin Partnership will be on Wednesday, January 16th from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at the Rome Town Hall. 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 John DuPlissis and Jason Folstad. If you have any question or comments please contact us.

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