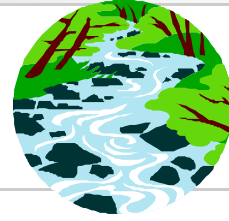


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Running Waters



Central Wisconsin Basin Partnership

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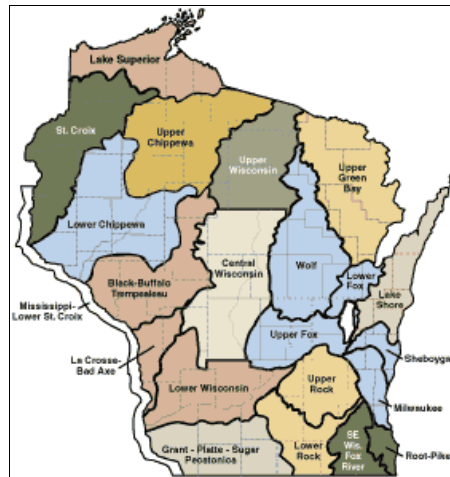
Statewide Partnership Team Summit 2001

Are you wondering if you are the only Partnership out there? Are you in need some inspiration? Here is an opportunity to learn from other Partnership activities throughout the state. Plans are underway for a meeting of all the partnership teams at a statewide conference to be held on Wednesday, April 4th, 2001 at the UW-Steven's Point's University Center. This will be a chance for partnership teams to share their success stories as well as lessons learned from their challenges. As all the partnership teams continue to be at different stages, this will undoubtedly be a learning experience for all.

Since the inception of the Basin Partnership Teams, many participants have expressed not only curiosity about how other Partnership Teams are progressing, but a desire to learn from one another. As the teams have progressed, there seems to be a growing need for feedback and some practical tools.

The summit will offer a combination of structured and informal sharing, panel discussions, and a training component. The Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources will also be there to provide his reflections on the work of the Partnerships since their inception.

Please join us and meet dedicated citizens from across the state and get feedback on your ideas, answers to your questions, and hear messages from other Partnership Teams that will inspire your local efforts.



There are 23 "Basins" in the State of Wisconsin. Each basin has a "Partner Team" with local members from both government agencies and private groups, which makes recommendations as the DNR implements natural resources programs. There are also local work groups and other organizations that are active within each basin.

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Special points of interest:

- Updates from the Partnership's ad-hoc issues working groups

Plover River Alliance Update

The Plover River Alliance is working on its first conservation easement, meanwhile awaiting approval of state Stewardship funding. There's a Stewardship backlog at DNR headquarters in Madison, but the Alliance is taking preliminary steps in the expectation that ap-

proval will come. Stewardship would provide a 50-50 match with local money.

The Alliance, in cooperation with other organizations and individuals, is locked in a battle with the state Department of Transportation

over the proposed Highway 10 bypass around the city. The DOT is looking at several routes, three of which would cross the Plover River with a four-lane highway.

For years it's been said that Stevens Point could be one of the few urban areas in the country with a wild river in its backyard in the 21st century -- if it protected the Plover. The Alliance believes the pristine nature of the river would be destroyed by the highway crossing, and that it would also endanger Stevens Point's water supply, which comes from the river valley.

Among the Alliance's allies in the fight against the highway are the Izaak Walton League, the Audubon Society and the Stevens Point Water and Sewage Commission. At this point, however, the DOT has not dropped the Plover River plans and appears unlikely to do so, at least before the end of the year. Thus, the issue is still in doubt.

Working Group Updates

THE PARTNERSHIP'S ISSUE IDENTIFICATION EFFORT

The Partnership has been working to identify issues that affect the management of natural resources in the Central Wisconsin Basin. Through this process the Partnership has established three ad-hoc committees to investigate the issues of Surface and Groundwater quality and quantity, Land Aesthetics, and vegetation management. As a part of this process the Partnership has sought public input on the briefing papers it developed on each issue. Letters were sent out to individuals, agencies, and organizations that might have an interest in these issues. The letter invited these people to review the enclosed "white paper," provide us with feedback, and to participate in the partnership and help us as we work our way through the issue identification and project selection process. The following are a series of brief reports from each of the committee's meetings

SURFACE AND GROUNDWATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY

The Surface and Groundwater Quality and Quantity ad-hoc working group met at Schmeckle Reserve on March 5th. The purpose of this meeting was to present the working group's white paper on the issues surrounding surface and groundwater quality and quantity and to gather public comment on the work that has been done so far.

The partnership mailed a letter of invitation including the white paper to 33 individuals representing various sector of the agricultural industry, Lakes Association, River Alliances, County Health Departments, Municipal water and wastewater treatment Departments, private consultants, Conservation organizations, and research and extension experts from the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point.

Although turnout for the meeting was low, those attending felt that the working group's white paper had done a nice job ad-

Efforts to conserve Wisconsin's population of the federally-endangered Karner blue butterfly, will get a boost in the form of a \$1.47 million federal grant that will be used to purchase 1,073 acres of prime Karner habitat within the Department of Natural Resources' Quincy Bluff and Wetlands State Natural Area in Adams County and additional acreage in central Wisconsin. Wisconsin is home to the largest existing population of the tiny, one-inch butterfly.

The State's part of the grant includes overseeing the implementation of a Karner blue butterfly Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and providing a 25 percent match to the federal grant. The conservation plan currently involves 27 private and public land-managing partners.

"This conservation plan is a benchmark in a new wave of conservation management," said Governor Scott McCallum. "It is a cooperative agreement, implemented at the state level, that will protect this endangered butterfly and at the same time, protect another valuable resource – local jobs – by allowing local economies, cooperating landowners, governments and businesses to go about their operations while conserving the Karner blue."

"Nationally, the US Fish and Wildlife Service had approximately \$5 million federal dollars available to it for single-species habitat conservation plans like this one," says Department of Natural Resources Secretary, Darrell Bazzell. "We received over 20 percent of the available money which speaks to the strength of our plan, the number of partners we've brought in, and it's size. Our plan protects Karner habitat on over 260,000 acres in Wisconsin."

Working Group Updates cont.

Addressing the core issues. Recommendations for revisions to the white paper will be presented at the next Partnership meeting.

There was a discussion of potential projects that the Partnership could undertake. A number of good ideas were generated by the group.

LAND AESTHETICS

The Land Aesthetics ad-hoc working group also met at Schmeckle Reserve on March 5th. The purpose of this meeting was to present the working group's white paper on the issues surrounding land aesthetics and to gather public comment on the work that has been done so far.

"The main proposal from the meeting was to change the name of the working group to Land-use since it better represents what they see as the purpose of the group."

Working Group Updates cont.

The partnership mailed a letter of invitation including the white paper to 19 individuals representing County Highway, Planning, and Zoning Departments, Conservancy Trusts, and Conservation organizations. Contacts were also made with the Wisconsin Realtors Association.

Although turnout was low those attending provided excellent feedback on the white paper and provided comment regarding revisions to the white paper. The main proposal from the meeting was to change the name of the working group to Land-use since it better represents what they see as the purpose of the group.

There was a general discussion of the issues. However, the focus was on planning/zoning of new developments and the use of easement and trust to preserve certain highly desirable lands. The group identified the issue of “consumptive use behavior” by individuals and how that affects efforts by both planning and zoning agencies to control “exurbanization” as a major issue. The example given was that many high-density development projects often fail due to the desire for lot sizes in the 1 to 5 acres range. Also, it was recommended that we look at the census data more carefully. The numbers presented in the white paper did not “sound” right to the group.

Attendees were asked about their thoughts on potential projects that the Partnership could undertake. Jim Burgener, Director of Marathon County’s Zoning Department, shared an idea they are using in Marathon County. The county has developed a “shoreland friends information packet.” The county sends this information packet out to all new shoreland property owners. Jim provided the Partnership with a copy. Chuck Kell, Director of Portage County’s Planning Department, discussed a model development being planned outside of Stevens Point.

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

The Vegetation Management ad-hoc working group met at the DNR’s Wisconsin Rapids Service Center on March 14th. The purpose of this meeting was to present the working group’s white paper on the issues surrounding vegetation management and to gather public comment on the work that has been done so far.

The partnership mailed a letter of invitation including the white paper to 21 individuals representing various sectors of the agriculture industry, forest industry, private consultants, County Parks and Forestry Departments, and Conservation organizations.

Although turnout was low, the group had received prior comment by phone and letter from several invitees. This helped to frame the discussion and provide the group feedback to help revise the white paper.

There was a general discussion of the issues presented in the white paper. There were several recommendations for changes

to help clarify specific points in the white paper and to correct errors. It was also noted that the group needed to clarify the need for pre-settlement historic information. Additionally, there were several issues that were raised that did not appear in the white paper. These included landowner’s rights, the need to generate income from the property to retain ownership, the role that land valuation and taxation play in land fragmentation, and economic and social disincentives to sustainable management. The group also recommended the addition of relevant data to each of the ecosystem types listed in the white paper to help provide a context for discussion. It was also recommended that the group add information concerning the ecologic, economic, and social value of each community to help identify resource management issues.

The group also made several recommendations for potential projects that the group could explore. These include the establishment of an invasive species task-force, the development of curriculum and teacher training program to help utilize school forests, and working with Wisconsin Family Forests to help provide education and the exchange of information between landowners.

Upcoming Events

PLANNING WISCONSIN’S LAND LEGACY

A Study of Public Land Needs for Conservation and Recreation
Monday, March 26th
5:00 pm to 9:00 pm
UW-Stevens Point, University Center’s Alumni Room
Contact Pete Wolter for more information (715) 421-7811

RECREATIONAL GRANTS WORKSHOP

Friday, March 30th
8:00 am to 3:30 pm
Eau Claire County Expo Center
Contact Bruce Neeb for more information (715) 839-3713

BASIN PARTNERSHIP SUMMIT

Wednesday, April 4th
9:00 am to 3:30 pm
UW-Stevens Point, University Center’s Alumni Room
Contact John DuPlissis for more information

MANAGED FOREST LAW WORKSHOP

Saturday, April 7th
9:00 am to 3:30 pm
Best Western Midway Hotel, Wausau
Contact John DuPlissis for more information

CENTRAL WISCONSIN BASIN PARTNERSHIP

Wednesday, April 18th
9:00 am to 12:00 pm
UWSP—Schmeckle Reserve
Contact John DuPlissis for more information

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.



The next meeting of the Central Wisconsin Basin Partnership will be on Wednesday, April 18th from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at the UWSP's Schmeckle Reserve. 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.

For more information regarding the Partnership or its activities please contact:

John DuPlissis
Basin Educator for Natural Resources
473 Griffith Avenue
Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin 54494-7859

Phone: (715) 421-7870
Fax: (715) 421-7830
Email: john.duplissis@ces.uwex.edu