

Upper Manitowoc River Watershed Task Force

Meeting Notes

January 21, 2015

Attendees

Members: Mike Berken, Town of Brillion; Gary Boesch, Village of Hilbert; Gary Deiter, City of Brillion; John Durbrow, Manitowoc Calumet Lakes Association; Lori Gosz, City of Brillion; Natanya Hayden, WI DNR; Wes Hedrich, Town of Rantoul Plan Commission and farmer; Doug Lau, Village of Potter; Lyle Ott, Calumet County Board of Supervisors and farmer; Robert Stanick, Brillion interested citizen; Mary Kohrell, Facilitator

Technical experts and interested stakeholders: Robert Rosenberger, WI DNR; Todd Verboomen, ECWRPC; Michelle Scott, WI DNR; Michelle Hase, WI DNR; Tony Reali, Calumet County Land & Water Conservation; Matthew Marmor, Calumet County Emergency Management; Miles Winkler, WI DNR; Titus Seilheimer, WI Sea Grant; Wilmer Geiser, Town of Charlestown; Eugene Mertz, Town of Rantoul; Dan Thiel, Town of Woodville; Wayne Maile, Town of Brillion; Edward Byrne, Brillion News

Introductions

Everyone present introduced themselves. Members of the task force shared their affiliations. Technical resource people in attendance described what they can contribute to the project.

Attempts to reach other possible task force members to invite their participation on the group were unsuccessful and will be continued. These people are Glen Braun, Deer Run Golf Course, and Gerald Linsmeier, Town of Cato.

Technical resource people Eric Fowle, East Central WI Regional Planning Commission, and Jim Kettler, Lakeshore Natural Resources Partnership, sent regrets that they were unable to attend the meeting. WI DNR staff introduced Robert Rosenberger who will begin attending meetings as a DNR representative due to staffing changes in the agency.

Administrative Issues and Governance

The members made decisions and recommendations on several foundational issues related to Task Force functionality.

Name: The recommended name is the Upper Manitowoc River Watershed Task Force. There were suggestions for consideration of using the term "partnership" in the group's name, but it was not added at the current time.

Governance: Members decided they do not wish to select a Chair. Facilitator Mary Kohrell will convene and facilitate meetings, develop agendas, summarize notes, and handle other appropriate tasks.

Task Force membership: In order to validate participation by individual members on the Task Force, members agreed to approach their respective oversight bodies, when possible, and seek a motion or vote which authorizes their participation. This will avoid any questions or second-guessing moving forward.

Voting: Members agree that they will use a "scale of agreement" type voting system to make interim decisions. For the Task Force's final recommendations, they will take a simple yes/no vote which will need to pass with a 2/3 majority to be valid. If necessary, a dissenting opinion will accompany any votes of non-support.

Resource Materials: If any members have printed or electronic materials they wish to share with the rest of the participants, they should get them to Mary, who will distribute the materials in conjunction with meeting agendas.

Timeline: Members agree that the desired timeline will be to have recommendations ready and conclude the Task Force’s business in one year. Short-term recommendations regarding timely matters, a grant application, for example, will be made as appropriate during the course of discussions. Two-hour meetings will be regularly held on 3rd Wednesday’s unless otherwise indicated beginning at 6:00 pm. If necessary, additional meetings can be added to accommodate future needs.

Organization of Priority Topics

Using information provided by attendees at the Nov. 21, 2014 meeting, Task Force members worked in small groups to clarify which solution ideas deserve consideration by the group at its future meetings, and in which order the discussions should occur. Based on member input, the proposed schedule follows. This schedule may change depending on the time needed to fully learn about, discuss, and make recommendations on each topic.

Date	Topic	Possible presenters and resources
March 18, 2015	Review and analysis of water flow in the watershed; compilation of data and resources that exist and identification of gaps	ECWRPC, County, DNR, consultants
April 15, 2015	Explore Short and Long-term funding solutions	
May 20, 2015	Water retention strategies and green infrastructure for water quantity and quality purposes	
June 17, 2015	Agricultural specific water retention strategies and green infrastructure for water quantity and quality purposes	Tony Reali, Eric Ronk
July 15, 2015	Strategies to address natural obstructions	
August 19, 2015	Strategies to address manmade obstructions	
September 16, 2015	Engineering solutions for addressing manmade obstructions	
October 21, 2015		
November 18, 2015		
December 16, 2015		
January 20, 2016		
February 17, 2016		

The category of potential solutions called “engineered solutions for water removal” was unanimously determined to be cost prohibitive and was eliminated from discussion at the present time.

A proposed agenda format for each meeting will likely consist of the following categories:

- Welcome
- Review previous meeting notes and packet materials (if any)
- Address any necessary administrative matters
- Brief review of recommendations/discussion from prior meeting
- Learn about the meeting topic
- Discuss the meeting topic
- Summarize and make recommendations related to the meeting topic
- Confirm time/date for next meeting
- Adjourn

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 18 at 6:00 pm. A February meeting will not be held due to schedule conflicts for several members.

An agenda for March 18 will be distributed in late February/early March.