

1. Save the Bay Initiative

Nicole Van Helden, nvanhelden@tnc.org

Project Leader: Congressman Mike Gallagher, WI 8th District

Project Partners: Agricultural community along with academic, industry, government and nonprofit leaders

Geography: Green Bay watershed and Lake Michigan

Timeframe: 4/2015 to present

Funding Source: None. Congressional staff support.

Project Goal: Convene people to work together to identify, share and promote regional solutions to water quality issues as they relate to phosphorus, nitrogen and sediments in Northeast Wisconsin.

Description: Representatives from agriculture, industry, agencies and nonprofits have met in work groups based on watershed locale – Lower Fox, Upper Fox/Wolf and Door-Kewaunee – to share information on conservation practices, discuss new issues and impediments facing producers, and determine action plans to expand the scope of best practices to more producers. Congressman Ribble and partners held farm tours, Bay water quality testing boat runs, and made strides to remove perceived impediments. The initiative is continuing under Congressman Gallagher.

2. Funding Priorities for Fox River/Green Bay Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA)

Trina Soyk, trina_soyk@fws.gov

Project Leader: Fox River/Green Bay NRDA Trustees

Project Partners: US-FWS, WI-DNR, Menominee Indian Tribe of WI, and Oneida Indian Tribe of WI

Geography: Tributaries of the Lower Fox River and Green Bay and adjacent watersheds

Timeframe: 2002-Future

Funding Source: Fox River/Green Bay NRDA Settlement Funds

Project Goal: To implement actions to restore, replace, or acquire the equivalent of resources or resource services injured or lost as a result of the release of PCBs into the Fox River and Green Bay.

Description: Over the past decade, the trustees and their partners have directed settlement funds to accomplish significant restoration in the Lower Fox River/Green Bay, supporting over 85 restoration projects. Due to the incredible partnerships with a variety of government agencies, non-profit groups, tribes, universities, and others this has resulted in greater conservation accomplishments (over 20,400 acres of landscape conservation, fisheries, and recreational benefits) than possible with NRDA funding alone. Into the future the Trustees intend to continue to work with partners through our hands-on restoration process to restore this dynamic landscape; the Trustees envision creating more public access to recreational fishing in the river and on the bay and continuing to prioritize projects that provide restoration benefits of fish and wildlife habitat toward a goal of sustainable populations of native fish and wildlife species.

3. Bat Diversity and Abundance in the coastal zone of lower Green Bay

Jeremiah Shrovnal, shroj01@uwgb.edu

Project Leader: Dr. Robert Howe, UWGB

Project Partners: USA EPA, UWGB Cofrin Center for Biodiversity

Geography: Green Bay Shoreline

Timeframe: June 2016 - September 2016

Funding Source: US EPA

Project Goal: Document the utilization of Green Bay shoreline habitat in the Area of Concern by bat populations.

Description: An acoustic monitor was used during walking transects on the Green Bay shoreline to detect bat presence in the area. Bat signatures were determined to the most confident description and the associated data points were mapped with associated habitat data.

4. Silver Creek Pilot Project - Grazing Farmstead Improvements

Jeff Smudde, jsmudde@newwater.us

Project Leader: Jeff Smudde - NEW Water

Project Partners: Oneida Tribe, Outagamie County LCD, Brown County LWCD, USEPA, WDNR, USGS, NRCS, UWGB, USFWS, DU, TNC, CH2M, McMahon Associates, Tilth Agronomy, AgVentures

Geography: Silver Creek - Tributary of Duck Creek

Timeframe: Fall 2014 - Spring 2020

Funding Source: US EPA - GLRI, NRDA, DU, Fund for Lake Michigan, NEW Water

Project Goal: Silver Creek Project Goal - Reduce sediment and phosphorus delivery to the Lower Fox River and Green Bay. Grazing project goal - monitor change in sediment and phosphorus loss from cropland (before, during, after conversion to intensively managed rotational grazing).

Description: This project is a whole-farmstead approach to conservation planning, highlighting a managed grazing operation conversion at Phil Robertson's farm. I will highlight the grazing plans that Adam Abel developed, paired field monitoring study Paul Baumgart is conducting, and other farmstead modifications that include a manure pit lining, heavy use area for the grazing cattle during wet periods, and a vegetated treatment area. In addition to sharing aerial photography, I will discuss how important it is to look at the whole farmstead when making changes to an operation, and how critical it is to have a good working relationship with the farmer.

5. Ecological, cultural and economic benefits of converting lawn to native prairie

Ronald Melchert, rmelche1@oneidanation.org

Project Leader: Ronald Melchert, ASLA, CLARB, Planner, Oneida Nation

Project Partners: USFWS

Geography: Silver Creek Watershed

Timeframe: April 2016 through October 2020

Funding Source: USFWS Partners for Wildlife

Project Goal: Reduce the carbon footprint of the Oneida Nation by converting 8.5 acres of mowed lawn to a native prairie plant community.

Description: This pilot project emanates from the Oneida Nation Planning Department and was initiated to comply with community concerns, budget issues, environmental factors and sustainability directives. The intent is to establish prairie areas rich with flowering native species. Benefits include reducing the carbon footprint of the Oneida Nation, reduced expenditures from lawn mowing and maintenance, reduced storm water runoff, attracting native pollinating insects and providing cultural medicines.

6. Thinking long term: Increase local efforts through invasive species ordinance adoption

Krista Lutzke, klutzke@co.door.wi.us

Project Leader: Door County Invasive Species Team (DCIST)

Project Partners: U.S. Fish and Wildlife, WI Department of Natural Resources, Door County Soil & Water Conservation Department, The Nature Conservancy, UW Extension, Door County Land Trust, The Ridges Sanctuary

Geography: Door County

Timeframe: On going

Funding Source: County, municipal donations and private landowner donations

Project Goal: Door County municipalities are adopting noxious weed ordinances to maintain years of successful invasive treatments along the counties shores.

Description: With grants becoming increasingly competitive, along with the uncertainty of obtaining proper funding to conduct additional treatment projects, the next step to maintain and improve efforts is to request local municipalities to adopt a noxious weed ordinance. An ordinance will provide the opportunity for invasive species efforts to go beyond grant awards and not lose ground on previous treatment efforts.

7. Improving fish passage and spawning habitat on the west shore of Green Bay

Ken Dolata, Ken.dolata@co.oconto.wi.us

Project Leader: Ken Dolata, Oconto County Land Conservation Division

Project Partners: US Fish and Wildlife Service, WDNR, Brown County Land Conservation Department, UWGB and Ducks Unlimited

Geography: Oconto County Coastal Wetlands and Tributaries to Green Bay

Timeframe: 1/2017 - 12/2020

Funding Source: Fox River/Green Bay Natural Resource Trustee Council

Project Goal: Improve fish passage and spawning habitat for Northern Pike on Green Bay's west shore tributaries and wetlands.

Description: Our goal is to remove fish passage barriers to restore access for fish into wetlands and streams and creating, enhancing and restoring wetlands and the connections to them for Northern Pike spawning on the west shore of Green Bay.

8. Innovative Equipment for Soil Health

Jeremy Freund, jeremy.freund@outagamie.org

Project Leader: Fox Wolf Watershed Alliance

Project Partners: Outagamie, Brown & Calumet Counties; Fox Wolf Watershed Alliance, TNC; NRCS-DemoFarms

Geography: Lower Fox including Plum and Kankapot Creeks

Timeframe: 3/2015-3/2020

Funding Source: GLRI

Project Goal: To help farmers successfully transition from tillage to no- or minimal tillage to improve soil health and water quality.

Description: The overall goal of our GLRI grant award is to reduce the sediment inputs into the Lower Fox. One source of sediment is from agricultural cropland non-point and with the equipment purchased, farmers can learn how to reduce the sediment and improve their soil health. The innovative equipment will be showcased during this talk.

9. Hydrodynamics of the Lower Fox River and Implications for Nutrient Processing in Great Lakes Rivermouths

Faith Fitzpatrick, Paul Reneau, and Jim Blount, fafitzpa@usgs.gov

Project Leader: Faith Fitzpatrick, USGS WI Water Science Center

Project Partners: USGS Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

Geography: Lower Fox River from DePere Dam to mouth

Timeframe: 16

Funding Source: GLRI

Project Goal: To spatially describe and quantify the mixing of Fox River water with Green Bay backwater

Description: In 2016, continuous measurements of flow, water levels, temperature, and dissolved oxygen were augmented with longitudinal and cross-sectional transects of velocity and towed, sonde-based water quality parameters. These measurements were done to characterize the physical mixing and retention of Fox River water depending on seiche and water levels from Green Bay. The data are being used to provide context to process-based models of nutrient release from Fox River sediment.

10. Oil Spill Response Planning for the Green Bay Area

Kathy Halbur, halbur.kathy@epa.gov

Project Leader: Kathy Halbur, EPA

Project Partners: USCG, WDNR, USFWS, GBMFD

Geography: Green Bay, Fox River, East River, and their tributaries

Timeframe: ongoing

Funding Source: Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund

Project Goal: Develop and implement a robust contingency plan that reduces the risks and minimizes the impacts of oil spills in the Green Bay area.

Description: Distribution of petroleum products (i.e., gasoline, diesel, ethanol, jet fuel) to and within the Green Bay market is changing. Contingency planning identifies the possibilities for an oil spill, the resources to respond to the spill, and the priorities for protection (e.g., Cat Island, water intakes). This talk will explain these efforts and how to participate.

11. A Bee and Butterfly Garden: Educating the Public about Pollinators

Jodi Arndt Labs, jodi@lcojlaw.com

Project Leader: Jodi Arndt Labs, Brown County Chapter of the Izaak Walton League

Project Partners: Working with Scout Troops and other volunteer groups

Geography: East River / Bower Creek watershed

Timeframe: April 2017 - October 2017

Funding Source: Partially funded by grant from Greater Green Bay Community Foundation

Project Goal: To enhance bee and butterfly habitat in our community while at the same time educating the public about the importance of pollinators.

Description: As part of the Chapter's master plan, the Chapter is working on plans for a natural playground for children to enjoy at Osprey Point; the natural playground includes a bee and butterfly maze garden. The bee and butterfly garden will feature pollinator habitats, as well as provide food and nesting sources for bees and butterflies. The bee and butterfly garden will feature a variety of native plantings that will bloom from early spring to late fall.

~~12. Green Bay Conservation Partners' Landscape Blueprint~~

~~———Betsy Galbraith, betsy_galbraith@fws.gov~~

~~**Project Leader:** Betsy Galbraith/USFWS~~

~~**Project Partners:** Conservation partners within the Lower Fox watershed & Green Bay~~

~~**Geography:** Lower Fox River watershed & Green Bay~~

~~**Timeframe:** 2015-2018~~

~~**Funding Source:** US Fish & Wildlife Service~~

~~**Project Goal:** The GBCP Landscape blueprint is striving to harness the energy of a thriving conservation community adapting to challenges that face this one-of-a-kind ecosystem to improve conservation outcomes and promote a healthy, resilient, and sustainable system for current and future generations.~~

~~**Description:** In the year since the last GBCP Roundtable, we have made steady progress together to make the Blueprint a reality. We'll focus on the work of the past year, which includes the development of functions and values leading to conservation targets and indicators for critical ecosystem functions and services, story maps detailing the project, the construction of a website, and integration of the Upper Fox and Wolf watersheds. Finally, we'll discuss next steps for the project, including the final Landscape Blueprint with priority area maps, an implementation strategy, and funding prospectus.~~

WILL BE REPLACED WITH BAY BEACH PRESENTATION FROM DONALEA DINSMORE. INFO COMING SOON.