

1. The Power of Community Interviews in Watershed Management Planning

Julia Noordyk, University of Wisconsin Sea Grant Program
noordykj@uwgb.edu; 920-465-2795

Leader: Julia Noordyk & Megan Hoff, UW Sea Grant; Bobbie Webster, Robert Howe, UWGB Cofrin Center for Biodiversity

Partners: Brown County Land & Water Conservation Department, Town of Scott, Town of Humboldt, University of Wisconsin - Division of Extension, Wisconsin DNR

Geography: Wequiock Creek Watershed (Lower Green Bay east shore)

Timeframe: 8/2018-6/2020

Funding Source(s): UW Sea Grant, Wisconsin Coastal Management Program

Goal: To develop a community-driven watershed plan through a robust stakeholder engagement process.

An interview questionnaire was designed to identify place-based knowledge and concerns related to conservation and water quality in the Wequiock Creek watershed. The results of the survey were used to create a list of community-based watershed priorities, which informed the structure of the community meeting and eventually the recommended watershed restoration objectives. Continued community engagement during all stages of planning has fostered a more meaningful rapport between natural resource practitioners and the community, helping to build a strong foundation for future implementation.

2. End Use Plan for Renard Island

Dean Haen, Brown County Port of Green Bay
Dean.haen@browncountywi.gov; 920-492-4953

Leader: Brown County Port & Resource Recovery

Partners: Community

Geography: Green Bay

Timeframe: 2019- future

Funding Source(s): public/private

Goal: Public use of Renard Island.

Renard Island provides 55 acres of waterfront property in Lower Green Bay. Brown County has prepared an end-use plan for active and passive recreational use on the site.

3. Lake Sturgeon Movements in Green Bay

Mike Donofrio, Wisconsin DNR
Michael.donofrio@wisconsin.gov; 715-923-1156

Leader: Mike Donofrio, WDNR

Partners: Michigan DNR, UWSP, MSU, USFWS

Geography: Green Bay

Timeframe: 5/2011-5/2031

Funding Source(s): WDNR, Great Lakes Fishery Commission, USFWS

Goal: Determine the movements of adult lake sturgeon in Green Bay.

We inserted acoustic transmitters into 223 adult lake sturgeon in the Menominee River. We're using over 200 acoustic receivers in Green Bay and its tributaries to evaluate movements of sturgeon.

4. Delisting the Lower Menominee River Area of Concern

Brie Kupsky, Wisconsin DNR

Brianna.kupsky@wisconsin.gov; 920-662-5465

Leader: Brie Kupsky, WDNR; Stephanie Swart, MEGLE

Partners: MEGLE, EPA GLNPO, USFWS, City of Marinette/Menominee, etc.

Geography: Menominee River/Green Bay

Timeframe: 1987 - 2020

Funding Source(s): GLRI, Cities of Marinette/Menominee, RP, etc.

Goal: To remove 6 beneficial use impairments in the Lower Menominee River Area of Concern and delist the AOC.

The Lower Menominee River was designated as one of 43 Great Lakes Areas of Concern (AOC) in 1987. For over thirty years, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (MEGLE) have partnered with the local community and several local, NGO, state, and federal groups to make progress on removing 6 beneficial use impairments. As of February 2019, all 6 BUIs were removed and WDNR and MEGLE have been working toward delisting the Lower Menominee River from the international list of AOCs for the last year. Lower Menominee River will be the first of Wisconsin's five AOCs to be delisted.

5. Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II Results in Northeast Wisconsin

Tom Prestby, GEI Consultants

tprestby@geiconsultants.com; 414-614-0798

Leader: Nick Anich, WDNR

Partners: WDNR, WI Society for Ornithology (WSO), WI Bird Conservation Partnership (WBCP), Western Great Lakes Bird and Bat Observatory (WGLBBO)

Geography: All of Wisconsin

Timeframe: 2015-2020

Funding Source(s): USFWS, NRF, NOAA, WE Energies, CBM, TNC, GEI Consultants, several other private donors

Goal: To identify the specific breeding range of all bird species in Wisconsin, and to compare these results to the results of Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas I in 1995-2000.

The Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II is a comprehensive field survey that documents the distribution and abundance of birds breeding in Wisconsin. The information will allow us to see changes in bird populations since the last survey and to measure future changes. These insights help us identify the conservation needs of breeding birds and try to meet those needs in northeast Wisconsin.

6. Ag Runoff Treatment System Update

Kevin Fermanich, UW-Green Bay and UW-Extension

fermanik@uwgb.edu; 920-465-2240

Leader: Jeremy Freund, Outagamie County LCD

Partners: Outagamie County, UWGB, TNC, USGS

Geography: Plum Creek HUC 12

Timeframe: 2015-2020

Funding Source(s): GLRI

Goal: To provide an update on the status of the monitoring of the ag runoff treatment systems installed to date and future plans.

Built as constructed wetlands and now rebranded as Agricultural Runoff Treatment Systems, I will provide an update on what we have learned in regard to monitoring and the future plans for trials.

7. Shipwreck Preservation and Underwater Archaeology Education in Green Bay

Kevin Cullen, Neville Public Museum
Kevin.Cullen@browncountywi.gov; 920-448-7849

Leader: Kevin Cullen, Wisconsin Underwater Archaeological Association

Partners: Wisconsin Underwater Archaeological Association / Wisconsin Historical Society

Geography: Bay of Green Bay & Lake Michigan

Timeframe: 1990 - Present

Funding Source(s): Membership Dues, Grants and Self Funded

Goal: Train scuba divers in the methods of underwater archaeology to document shipwreck sites within Green Bay waters and beyond for nomination on the National Register of Historic Places.

This presentation dives into a successful model of how an avocational underwater archaeology organization (Wisconsin Underwater Archaeological Association) and a state agency (The Wisconsin Historical Society's Maritime Preservation and Archaeology Program) are partnering to train a new cadre of skilled scuba divers to assist in documenting shipwrecks in Wisconsin waters. Three case studies will be discussed pertaining to recent and forthcoming underwater archaeology field schools in the Green Bay watershed, where students and instructors work together to create historic shipwreck site plans for determination of eligibility in listing them on the National Register of Historic Places. The resulting data generated from these field schools has been used for avocational publications, scholarly research, online information, public accessibility and museum exhibit content.

8. Northeast Wisconsin Invasive Species Coalition (NEWISC)

Asa Plonsky, Golden Sands RC&D
asa.plonsky@goldensandsrcd.org; 715-343-6215 x707

Leader: Asa Plonsky and Josh Beneš, Golden Sands RC&D

Partners: Wisconsin DNR, US Fish & Wildlife Service, US Forest Service, Mosquito Hill Nature Center, Heckrodt Wetland Reserve, County Land Conservation Departments

Geography: Brown, Outagamie, Waupaca, and Winnebago Counties

Timeframe: Ongoing

Funding Source(s): Federal, state, and local grants

Goal: Develop a cooperative group to address regional terrestrial invasive species mapping and management to benefit wildlife, forest productivity, recreation, and water quality.

Invasive species impact our ecosystems and economy. Some even cause human health concerns. Although many groups and individuals are managing invasive species on their properties, success is hampered by re-invasion of species from neighboring lands. Golden Sands RC&D and various partners are developing a Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA) to serve Brown, Outagamie, Waupaca, and Winnebago Counties. CISMAs are local partnerships that coordinate collaborative projects focused on invasive species control, education, mapping, and monitoring at a regional level. We invite organizations, landowners, and volunteers in these counties to get involved in the new group.

9. Energy Work in the Region

Mike Troge, Oneida Nation
mtroge@oneidanation.org; 920-869-4572

Leader: Mike Troge, Oneida Nation

Partners: Green Bay Sustainability Commission, Clean Energy Workgroup, Brown County Energy Oversight Committee, NWTC

Geography: Green Bay Region

Timeframe: 1999 to present

Funding Source(s): Tribal, local, state, federal

Goal: Host communities are investigating and integrating energy technologies that provide >25% of non-carbon based energy sources by 2040 to encourage carbon neutrality in neighboring communities.

Energy is an important driver of society, business, and industry that often gives rise to unintended consequences. Communities around the world are recognizing a critical need for energy planning and infrastructure that promotes responsible energy investment and long-term preparations for a changing world. Local communities, colleges, and organizations must provide leadership in the development of a responsible energy vision where state and federal agencies are ill- equipped to act.

10. What Can Be Done About the East River?

Mike Grimm, The Nature Conservancy
mgrimm@tnc.org; 920-333-1753

Leaders: Various

Partners: US Fish and Wildlife Service, WDNR, The Nature Conservancy, Brown & Outagamie Counties, Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission, NEW Water, UW Sea Grant, UW-Madison, Local Municipalities

Geography: East River Watershed

Timeframe: 10/2018-7/2021

Funding Source(s): USFWS, WI Coastal Management, Private

Goal: Improving the fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, flood resiliency and public appreciation of the East River.

Three projects have come together in the last several years to improve the East River. These include an Upper East River fish and wildlife habitat improvement plan; a Lower East River habitat and public benefit planning project; and a forthcoming East River watershed flood resiliency plan to address flooding and water quality issues. Project partners invite GBCP members to learn more and become involved with implementing the recommendations of these plans.

11. Sources and Fate of PFAS in Green Bay and Lake Michigan

Sarah Balgooyen, University of Wisconsin-Madison
sjbalgooyen@gmail.com; 734-306-3781

Leader: Christina Remucal, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Partners:

Geography: Marinette, WI and Green Bay tributaries

Timeframe: 10/2019 - 1/2022

Funding Source(s): Wisconsin Sea Grant

GBCP Virtual Spring Roundtable 2020

Lightning Talks

Goal: The goal of this project is to determine if elevated PFAS contamination in Marinette, WI contributing to PFAS levels in Lake Michigan by way of "hotspots" in Green Bay.

Elevated PFAS concentrations in wastewater and private drinking water wells in Marinette, WI have been connected with activities at a local fire technology center. Little is known about movement of this contamination into nearby Green Bay. This research looks into PFAS mobility in the area along with the sediment-water partitioning of selected compounds.

12. Designation of the Green Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

Mathew Dornbush, UW-Green Bay
dornbusm@uwgb.edu, 920-465-2454

Leader: Mathew Dornbush, UW-Green Bay

Partners: Many. NOAA, Wisconsin Coastal Management, Wisconsin Extension, UWM School of Freshwater Science, UW,

Geography: Green Bay Estuary and connected ecosystems and communities

Timeframe: 2019-2024

Funding Source(s): NOAA, UW-Green Bay, donors, others

Goal: Lead the greater Green Bay region and Wisconsin through the successful designation of the Green Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve.

In response to a 2019 letter of interest by WI Governor Evers to develop and nominate Green Bay for a NERR site, NOAA invited the State of Wisconsin and UW-Green Bay as the lead agency to commence with the federal designation process. This year, the next step in the NOAA process, Site Selection and Nomination, will begin. The site selection step will be followed by an environmental impact statement, management plan, record of decision, and final designation steps.