

Pemberton Citizen Advisory Committee January 22, 2013 Meeting Notes



Present: Ozzie Arndt, Mark Bosacker, Lu Guse, Carl Guse, Mark Jenzen, Mark Krosch, John Kuether, Greg Mikkelson, Randy Schindle, Leon Schoenrock, Larry Gunderson, Brooke Hacker, Kim Musser, Rick Moore, Patrick Moore, Mary Moore, Jon Lore, Paul Davis

The Le Sueur River Watershed Network hosted the first meeting of the Citizen Advisory Committee on Tuesday, January 22, 2013 at Pemberton's Main Street Plaza. Eighteen people attended. After introductions and an overview of the goals, timeline and proposed guiding principles of the Citizen Advisory Committee, the group set to work brainstorming recommendations to improve water quality in the Le Sueur River Watershed. A draft version of the "Le Sueur River: Science Briefing Booklet" was passed out and we discussed how the science related to our brainstormed list. The meeting concluded with setting up the next meeting: Tuesday, February 19, 2013 from 7-9 PM at Pemberton Main Street Plaza.

Question: What changes might be needed in order to bring about improvements in water quality in the Le Sueur River Watershed? What recommendations that we should pursue?

BRAINSTORMING LIST

- Marketing – give recognition to landowners going the extra mile (I)
- More pools created in the river beds
- Eliminate the Farm Program
- Improve storm water management (IIII)
- Recharge Aquifers
- Septic System Updates
- Do something about high water events
- Wind erosion is back again. Keep more trash, residue on the ground
- Enforce existing laws for buffers/wetlands – need more like CREP (II)
- Install bioreactors to capture nitrate-nitrogen
- Improve cost share ratio and get more resources (design services, technical assistance) to SWCDs (I)
- Streambank ravine stabilization projects that work
- Use low tech ideas that wouldn't require so much money
- Re-establish flood plains
- Promote recreational uses – focus on youth (I)
- Open tile intakes – "Close them up" campaign
- Cut the red tape for willing conservationist landowners and promote more coordination among agencies (I)
- Absentee landowners - farmland investor education
- Fertilizer management improved
- Find a way to compete with high crop prices
- Toe wood sod mat project
- Ecological information in schools, newspapers, radio
- Economic development will give rise to more stewardship

BY RANK

- Improve storm water management (4)
 - Enforce existing laws for buffers/wetlands – need more like CREP (2)
 - Marketing – give recognition to landowners going the extra mile (1)
 - Promote recreational uses – focus on youth (1)
 - Cut the red tape for willing conservationist landowners and promote more coordination among agencies (1)
 - Improve cost share ratio and get more resources (design services, technical assistance) to SWCDs (1)
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- Create more pools in the river beds for fish habitat
 - Eliminate the Farm Program
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BY THEME

BMPs

- Enforce existing laws for buffers/wetlands – need more like CREP
- Use low tech ideas that wouldn't require so much money
- Install bioreactors to capture nitrate-nitrogen
- Install toe wood sod mat project
- Install streambank ravine stabilization projects that work
- Open tile intakes – “Close them up” campaign
- Improve fertilizer management
- Update Septic Systems
- Wind erosion is back again. Keep more trash, residue on the ground

Hydrology & Stream Structure

- Improve storm water management
- Re-establish flood plains
- Do something about high water events
- More pools created in the river beds for fish habitat
- Recharge Aquifers

Technical Assistance – Help Landowners

- Cut the red tape for willing conservationist landowners and promote more coordination among agencies
- Improve cost share ratio and get more resources (design services, technical assistance) to SWCDs

Education & Outreach

- Marketing – giving recognition to landowners going the extra mile (I)
- Promote recreational uses – focus on youth (I)
- Educate absentee landowners - farmland investor education
- Provide ecological information in schools, newspapers, radio

Policy & Economics

- Enforce existing laws for buffers/wetlands – need more programs like CREP (see BMPs)
- Find a way to compete with high crop prices
- Promote economic development to give rise to better stewardship
- Eliminate the Farm Program

SCIENCE BRIEFING BOOKLET: QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

Wetlands

- Going forward, wetland restoration needs a riparian connection
- Concern about CRP land coming out due to high commodity prices
- Drained wetlands can be problematic to farm (ditch back-up issues etc)
- MPCA's priority management zone work is focusing on areas that are not as productive. Currently, SWCDs are meeting with landowners to talk and try to get an interest in restoration.

- Are there certain spots in the Le Sueur Watershed where the aquifer is more vulnerable?
- What is the relationship between tile draining and aquifer recharge?
- How does tile draining relate to soil holding capacity?

NEXT MEETING

We will continue this discussion and look at existing policy in the watershed (County Water Plans).