

Indian Island Conservation Tour & Potluck - Meeting Notes

October 23, 2012

Community Asset Mapping

Question #1

Write 2 places that you love on a post-it note. (_) indicates number of post-its put on the map.

PLACE	# of Post-its
Rivers	
Big Cobb River - River Cliffs (2) -Hiking (1)	8
Maple River -Where Le Sueur and Maple join (2)	8
Le Sueur River -Red Jacket Trail (2) - Fishing (1)	4
Lakes	
Eagle Lake	6
Reeds Lake (Bass Fishing)	4
Lura Lake	2
Madison Lake	2
Buffalo Lake	2
Rice Lake	1
Rush Lake	1
Minnesota Lake	1
Bass Lake	1
Sliver Lake	1
Lake Elysian	1
Bull Run Creek (Sledding/Dirt Biking)	1
Parks & Trails	
Sakatah Bike Path	4
Schimek Park near Good Thunder (Bedrock)	3 1
McGowan's Park (Tubing and Fishing)	1
Bray Park	1
Waseca Courthouse Park	1
Daly Park	1
Lake Mills WMA	1

Places in the Community	
My Home	5
Amboy Cottage Café	2
Thirsty Beavers Bar	1
Waldorf Muni Bar	1
Indian Island Winery	1
Carl Guse's Farm	1
Alma City	1
Southern Research and Outreach Center	1
Comments	
Diversity in geography -Lakes, Rivers	1
Beautiful country -River, Rapids, Creeks	1
Public Trails	1
Spring Mushrooms	1
Abundant Wildlife	1
Quiet -Not the Twin Cities	1

Question #2

What is the best feature of your community?

(Reponses from Group Report out)

Landscape

Great Diversity in water, woodlands, lake
Terrain, different diversity of terrain,
Fall colors, harvest
Conservation tillage in the fields - soil with a blanket
Trails, lakes, diversity of lands outdoors
Beauty of fields, trees, and farms

Parks & Trails

Sakatah State Trail
Number and variety of Parks
Lura Lake, Daly Park
Horse trails
Trails, lakes, diversity of lands outdoors

Lakes

Eagle Lake
Lura Lake, Daly Park
Trails, lakes, diversity of lands outdoors

Businesses

Wineries - Indian Island
Mankato Brewery
Family farms and century farms

Community & People

Good people, good water
We know our neighbors
Cultural History (Farms Centuries old)

Wildlife Areas

Maple River Wildlife Management Area
Rice Lake Wildlife Management Area

Native History

Native heritage and history (arrowhead collection)

Other

Spring mushrooms (morrels!)
Blue Earth County – Most river miles in the state of Minnesota
Passionate Paddlers
Eagle Lake – moonlight canoe rides

Network Weaving

Question #1

Who do you look to for information about water quality?

Media
Word of Mouth
USGS Flow
SWCDs
Counties
County Well Index website
Government agencies
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR)
MDNR monthly – flow, hydrology report
MDNR Conservation Volunteer
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Minnesota Department of Health
Minnesota State University, Mankato Water Resources Center (MSU)
University of Minnesota Extension/Outreach
Mankato Free Press
NOAA
Audubon
Cornell University
Fishing/Outdoors/Sportsmen Clubs
Boaters
Fisherpeople

Question #2

Who do you look to for advice and inspiration?

Community Leaders & Groups

Pastors
Parents
Prairie Enthusiasts
Mankato Paddling & Outings Club
4-H programs (there are entire projects related to wetlands)
Scout Masters

Government Agencies & Scientists

DNR
Instructors at MSU & AC
County Board
County Staff
Scientists (Sediment research)

Specific People

Dr. James L. Gibson, Director of Farm America
Julie Conrad- Blue Earth County
Dean Peterson- Fishing club
Gary Barnett- Sportsmen active in Swan Lake
Tim Grant- City of Mankato-Drinking Water and water testing in Janesville
Scot Marter and Pastor Griffin, both are pastors at Trinity Lutheran in Janesville
John Lore- MDNR
Scott Sparlin, Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River (CCMR)
Chris Hughes, BWSR
Marla Watje, Waseca SWCD
Henry Quade- Retired MSU Professor- water quality project
Ron Winter
Shannon Fisher -MSU WRC
Lisa Lindberg, Amboy
Les Curny, Amboy
Carl Guse

John Muir
Aldo Leopold, Sand County Almanac

Photographers

Ansel Adams
Jim Brandenburg

Question #3

Who else do we need to have connections with to build a network?

Who are the people that we are missing?

Farming

Elderly & Young Farmers

Dairy Farmers

4-H and Boy/Girl Scouts (Many clubs are looking for community service projects)

Farming Organization - Farm Bureau

Education/Kids

University and high school biology/outdoor clubs

Boy Scouts of America

High School Groups: Science, biology, outdoors

4-H and Boy/Girl Scouts

Outdoor Recreationalists/Paddlers

Friends of Minneopa

Minnesota Naturalists

Master Gardeners

Rock hoppers – Blue Earth River, a facebook group

Mankato Area Paddling & Outing

Bent River Outfitters

River Ramblers

Hunting / Fishing / Sportsmen

Ducks Unlimited – Minnesota Lake

Pheasants Forever – Waseca

Sportsman Club – Janesville

Pheasants Incorporated – Howard Ward

Bob Kaul

Government

DNR, MPCA, SWCD, Department of Ag - connected

City Employees –Public Extension Office

County Commissioners

Other

Churches – ministers, pastors

Middle-aged and elderly women. These intelligent women know how to get things done but may not come to these meetings. As a teacher, I noticed many moms with kids interested in nature would ask great questions at school.

Question #4

What is the name of the person that has access to that network?

Farming

Dairy Farmers- Kristine & Dave Johnson, Hartland
Farm Bureau – Kevin Pap
Farmer’s Union – Dave Focum
Pork Producers
Mankato Farmer’s Market – Executive Director, Carolyn Woods

Outdoor/Recreationalists

Recreation - Scott Kudelka, MDNR
Scott Siegfried – Prairie Enthusiasts
Ron Winter
Peggy Kreber
Birding Clubs
Audubon
Bend in the River Birders
Merrill Frydendall, Retired MSU Professor, birder
Chad Heins
Tim Grant – birder
Al Batt – Birder
Snowmobile Clubs
Horses – Lake Crystal Saddle Club (7 mile Creek)

Fisherman/Sportsman

Fishing clubs
Muskie Fishermen (Cobb River)
Catfish Fishermen
Ducks Unlimited - Pemberton & Minnesota Lake
Pheasants Forever - Waseca
Pheasants Forever - Blue Earth County
Pheasants Incorporated – Jim Moore (Faribault County), Howard Ward, Bob Kaul
Sportsman Club in Janesville (maybe folded?)
Amboy Snowmobile Club – Cheryl Bernard – Good Thunder
Wells Rifle and Pistol – Jim Durfee, Mountain Lake & Mark Jenzen
Minnesota Trappers Association (SC Branch)

Education/Kids

Girl Scouts
Henry Quade – Retired MSU WRC, Big Cobb River
Churches – ministers, pastors
Unitarians – Sue Chambers
Comment: The rivers should be the conscience of our society and it shows how much we work against it.
Government
Waseca County Commissioner – Jim Peterson

Media

Mankato Free Press – John Cross & Tim Krohn

Madison Lake Times – Jerry Groebner

Questions? Feedback?

Question #1

What would you like to better understand about the rivers, streams, and lakes in the Le Sueur River Watershed?

- What is the total environmental problem and solution?
- How do we bridge the gap between conservation/water quality and production agriculture?
- How do we educate farmers on the importance of buffers, filter strips, and conservation?
- What are current farm tilling regulations?
- How do we control erosion/drainage?
- How does hydrology impact the rivers and streams (Urban and Ag)?
- Where can I get a good map of canoeable rivers?
- How does my living on the bluff above the river impact the river and what I should do for best management practices?

Question #2

Do you have any questions about the project?

- How do these watershed committees work?
- How do you see this committee making an impact in the area? Be sure to have all groups represented in future meetings.
- How can non-farmers and non-city employees affect change in water quality?
- How does the relationship work between all those involved in a watershed? (e.g. counties-LGU's, DNR, Department of Ag, MPCA, Farmers, MSU)
- How do community members fit into the big picture?
- Who is paying for this?
- How will we measure success?

Question #3

Do you have any suggestions for future meetings?

Topics

- We need to identify what our common goal is
- Minnesota Department of Agriculture water quality certification program or other SWCD/NRCS programs
- Cover the topic aquatic habitat management
- Panel of Speakers - Satish Gupta (U of M), Todd Kolander, and city planners

Locations

- Indian Island is a good place to meet
- Linda's Café in Good Thunder
- Thunder Bar in Good Thunder
- Fire stations/School Gym
- Elk Center in Mankato
- Farmamercia -near Waseca
- Rasmussen Woods Facility - Mankato
- Jack McGowan's Park - near Mankato
- Something on the south or east side of watershed to engage residents

Question #4

Do you have any suggestions for improving these meetings in the future?

- Do you want active, young farmers involved? Don't do wine & poetry. They're young with families. You'll find them at ballgames or at family orientated events.
- Loved the tour at the beginning of the event. In Future keep it at the start of meeting.
- Offer a short introduction such as a pamphlet or small written description. (Don't know much about it, would like to know some facts)