

NATURAL RESOURCES

Water Team

The UWEX Water Team acts as an umbrella over a number of work groups involving water. Members of the teams include UWEX CNRED and non-CNRED educators and other partners.

The Mission of the Water Team:

The mission of the CNRED Water Team is to support CNRED staff who do water programming; helping them to communicate and collaborate, identify key water-related needs and issues, form workgroups around identified needs and issues, and improve water related programming.

Current Initiatives

Aquatic Invasive Species

The Aquatic Invasive Species workgroup exists to facilitate coordination and communication among the many entities (within and beyond UWEX) who are working on aquatic invasive species issues across WI. We meet by phone ~3 times/year to update each other on the status of current projects, discuss emerging issues, and share information/resources. These meetings provide an opportunity for people to network, form partnerships, and swap ideas.

Drinking Water Quality

In 2007, this work group revised a fact sheet entitled "Improving Private Well Water Quality". The fact sheet is written for homeowners to assist in diagnosing well quality problems and identifying appropriate solutions. The fact sheet is available as a print on demand publication from the learning store. It can also be viewed and printed for free at the UWEX Learningstore website at <http://learningstore.uwex.edu/pdf/G3826.pdf>.

They also developed a fact sheet entitled "Well Water for Rural Residential Subdivisions". The fact sheet describes a case study in Sauk County where computer groundwater flow models were used to assist a rural subdivision in well construction design options to improve drinking water quality for its residents. The fact sheet is available online at the Groundwater Center website: <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/gndwater/info/Subdivision%20Wells.pdf>. Hardcopies can also be requested by contacting Kevin Masarik at kmasarik@uwsp.edu.

Finally, they assisted in a survey of nearly 1,200 private well owners which sought to identify attitudes and barriers of drinking water testing. The survey was done in partnership with other agencies and organizations concerned about drinking water safety. The response rate for the survey was just over 70%. Results are currently being summarized and will be available soon.

Estuary & Coastal Wetland Protection

Completed two publications "Wisconsin's Freshwater Estuary Initiative: Developing a Lake Superior Freshwater Estuary Center <http://freshwaterestuary.uwex.edu> and an Assessment of Wisconsin's Great Lakes Freshwater Estuary, Applied Research, management and Outreach Needs

Industrial & Municipal

The goal for this work group is to assist municipal and industrial surface water dischargers in meeting or exceeding their regulatory requirements through pollution prevention.

Some of their results include:

Excessive discharges of dental mercury waste have led to establishment of new wastewater standards by Wisconsin DNR. SHWEC continues to support and foster the partnership between municipal publicly owned treatment works, the Wisconsin DNR and the Wisconsin Dental Association as they fine-tune the proposed regulatory strategy for reducing discharges of dental amalgam.

New municipal storm water management regulations for small communities provided an opportunity for SHWEC to offer education to help reduce impacts of urban non-point pollution on Wisconsin's surface and ground waters.

Small Community POTW pollution prevention outreach and technical assistance program working directly with a group of 10-15 small community POTWs, and the significant industrial dischargers or other waste water sources in the chosen communities, to identify how pollution prevention (P2) activity can have the following impacts:

1. Reduce loadings and extend the capacity or service life of the POTW
2. Resolve permit exceedance issues for the POTW
3. Deliver cost savings to the community through capital project avoidance
4. Develop examples of estimated costs or cost savings for businesses implementing P2
5. Reduce levels of pollutants being discharged to the POTW by business and industry

River Partnership Ad Hoc Work Group

The purpose of this work group is to explore the potential for University, WDNR, and Private Sector Rivers groups to partner to bring about improve river awareness, improve river stewardship, and bring service to local river and water groups.

The Watershed Center partnered with the River Alliance on an effort to survey local rivers groups as to their wants and needs for outreach services. Our ad hoc workgroup will distribute the results more broadly among Water Team members and CNRED faculty.

Urban Forestry and Stormwater

The urban forestry/stormwater team is primarily interested in strengthening urban forestry in Wisconsin by raising awareness of its benefits for stormwater management and building communities' capacity to implement practices that meet both urban forestry and stormwater management objectives. The main project is creating a guide for foresters, stormwater engineers, public works directors and elected officials on how to integrate urban forestry and stormwater management. We are also designing a program to deliver the guidebook and to educate audiences on the topic in general.

Urban Stormwater

In 2007, we completed three Stormwater Permit for Phase II communities WisLine Webs and four Post Construction Stormwater WisLine Webs in partnership with DNR and COMM.

The group is developing a fact sheet on stormwater partnerships in the state, and working on a seminar that could be used throughout the state to develop or improve stormwater education partnerships. A pilot public outreach planning workshop was held in the Green Bay and Appleton area with others planned for around the state.

Volunteer Water Monitoring

Currently inactive: much state level work being done with expansion of citizen monitoring in partnership with the River Alliance and the DNR.

Water & Economics

This team has several projects regarding the study of economics and water

1. Working with Tim Kane in Bayfield and Mark Eiswerth at UW Whitewater we have developed a survey tool to look at the economic impacts of lakes and the effect of aquatic invasive species in the towns of Iron River and Delta near the Pike Lake Chain. Data is being crunched by Mark and his crew as we speak.
2. Working with CLUE, we came up with a method to calculate the value of the waterfront property by county. (example at a value of \$1000 per front foot (with no buildings) the frontage on Wisconsin's lakes would come out at around \$154 billion in value.)
3. We are working with Mark Eiswerth to build a compilation of the best and most important studies done across the nation about the economic value of water. It will be shared as a web page at UWEX Lakes. We hope to be finished before the year is out.
4. We are starting preliminary work with Mike Koles, Chad Cook, Catherine Neiswender, John Stoll, Mark Eiswerth and others regarding an economic survey on the impact of AIS, including the fish virus called VHS (Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia), on the Winnebago pool and the Waupaca Chain of Lakes.

Water Quantity and Water Conservation (Springs Preservation, Water Security, Comprehensive Planning and water conservation education)

Currently inactive, but gearing up for some new projects – many CNRED faculty and staff are working on this issue independent of a team.

Upcoming Events

Resources

AIS Team UWEX (with DNR and the Lakes Partnership) produces many outreach materials on aquatic invasive species that are available to the public free of charge. Contact Julia Solomon for ordering info, or view the list of available materials at <http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/aquatic/resrep.htm>.

Partner Team: \$1000 funding to hold citizen monitoring conference.

Municipal and Industrial team: The SHWEC website <http://www4.uwm.edu/shwec/>

Team Contacts

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Members of Water Team Coordinating Body

Ken Genskow, George Kraft, Bob Korth, Kevin Masarik, John Exo, Suzanne Wade, David Liebl

Current Work Groups and Their Members

Aquatic Invasive Species

Julia Solomon, Brock Woods, Laura Herman, Ken Genskow, Bob Korth, Erin Henegar, John Exo, Bill Klase, Mike Koles, David Liebl, Dale Mohr, Chad Cook, Tim Kane, Mark Eiswerth, Catherine Neiswender, Non UWEX members: Kelly Kearns (DNR), Ron Martin (DNR), Jeff Bode (DNR), Carroll Schaal (DNR), Phil Moy (UW Sea Grant)

Drinking Water Quality

Kevin Masarik, Peggy Compton, Madeline Gotkowitz, David Liebl

Estuary & Coastal Wetland Protection

Cathy Techtman, Kendra Axness, Kathleen Morgan, Patrick Robinson

Industrial & Municipal

Dave Liebl, Jack Annis, Steve Brachman

River Partnership Ad Hoc Work Group

Kris Stepenuck; David Liebl, George Kraft,

Urban Stormwater

Paul McGinley, David Liebl, John Exo, Jack Annis, Kendra Axness, Eric Olson, Catherine Neiswender, Kris Stepenuck, Ken Genskow, Suzanne Wade plus DNR and COMM staff

Urban Forestry and Stormwater

Kris Tiles, Kendra Axness, Bill Klase, Gail Epping Overholt, Paul McGinley, and Sara Mosser (UW-Madison graduate student)

Volunteer Water Monitoring

Kris Stepenuck, Chad Cook, Nancy Turyk, Laura Herman, Suzanne Wade, Peggy Compton,

Water & Economics

Bob Korth, Peggy Compton, Bill Klase, Jack Annis, Steve Brachman, Kevin Masarik, plus others for specific projects.

Water Quantity and Water Conservation (Springs Preservation, Water Security, Comprehensive Planning, water conservation education) Andy Yench, Madeline Gotkowitz, George Kraft, Lynn Markham, Paul McGinley, Kevin Masarik, Suzanne Wade, Jack Annis, David Liebl