

Tri-Creek Land Use Planning Committee

18 October 2016 - 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Ridgeville Town Hall

Those present included:

Bob Micheel, Monroe County Land Conservation District
Chad Ziegler, Monroe County Forestry and Parks
Bill Quackenbush, Ho-Chunk Nation, Black River Falls, WI
Marcy West, Kickapoo Valley Reserve, La Farge, WI
Armund Bartz, DNR, LaCrosse, WI
Abbie Church, Mississippi Valley Conservancy, LaCrosse, WI
Eric Epstein, Township of Ridgeville resident
Inese Epstein, Township of Ridgeville resident
Ron Luethe, Ridgeville Township Supervisor

Marcy West presented an overview of the management plan process from the perspective of the Kickapoo Valley Reserve (KVR). Marcy stated it is very important to get public input after the initial plan is completed and continue public input during the plan update process. The plan contents will include background and history, natural resource inventories, cultural resources, endangered species (aquatic and terrestrial) and goals and objectives. Once the plan is developed, public input on recreational uses of the property can be developed with the resources guiding the proposed uses. Updates for KVR are done every 5 years. Armund Bartz noted there is several management plans that have been developed that could be used as templates for Tri-Creek.

Bill Quackenbush stated the educational component for the resources, especially cultural resources, are important to develop and maintain with funding resources.

Funding resources for Tri-Creek were then discussed. The revenue stream for the property will go through various committees and county board for approvals. Having funding supported by revenue generated from the Tri-Creek property (includes cropland rent and potentially timber sales) is one component to consider for funding management of the property.

Updates to resource data assignments were presented:

Eric Epstein will provide a synopsis of the data he has gathered concerning several resource inventories he has conducted within Tri-Creek.

Chad Ziegler is continuing the recon of the forest areas within Tri-Creek.

Armund Bartz – Andrew Badje, DNR, La Crosse, will provide his expertise concerning wood turtles. Armund will continue to work on wildlife resources within Tri-Creek.

Bill Quackenbush did a preliminary cultural resource data query within Tri-Creek. A cultural resource inventory was done for the Tri-Creek dam circa 1977 under the PL566 program. Many artifacts were found and some have been dated 10,000 – 12,000 years old. Bill asked where these artifacts are stored and they may be in the possession of the Army Corps of Engineers. Bill would like to review these artifacts when they are located. Bill will be contacting Ray Reser, Director, UWSP-Museum of Natural History to discuss the original documents from the 1970's study of the Tri-Creek area which include hand drawn maps, field notes, slides, artifacts and draft reports.

Bob Micheel stated the last water quality survey at Tri-Creek was done in 2011. He noted that additional monitoring is needed and will contact DNR to schedule monitoring the spring of 2017. He hopes to inventory the groundwater seeps within Tri-Creek this fall.

Bike Trail History –Ron Luethe provided a copy of Chapter 14 from Karen Parker's book "Indomitable Pluck – One Railroad, Three Tunnels And America's First Rails-to Trails Bike Path" for history of the bike trail.

Next meeting –Ron Luethe ron.luethe@centurylink.net will contact the Committee when date options become available. It will be scheduled sometime January 2017.

Ron Luethe