

Tri-Creek Land Use Committee Meeting

Wednesday, August 16, 2017 – 1:00 PM

Monroe County Land Conservation Department
Sparta, WI

Those in attendance were: Jo Marie Thompson, Inese Epstein, Eric Epstein, Bob Micheel, George Johnston, Camille Bruhn, Armund Bartz, Chad Ziegler, Megan Kable, and Ron Luethe.

Introductions were made. The following committee assignment updates were presented:

Chad Ziegler, Monroe County Forestry and Parks – Chad presented his completed forest inventory of the Tri-Creek property via handout and PowerPoint. Highlights of the inventory include: property contains several different age classes including northern hardwoods. The property is unique for the county and contains many springs. There were some plantings present and historically many were planned and never planted. Invasive species were everywhere on the property and considered average for the county. Non-native Amur maple, elm, and black ash which are species not as desirable are also present. Horsetail is common in the low areas and it was noted wood turtles use it for cover. Beaver are also present and should be controlled as part of a management plan. There is good potential for grouse and woodcock habitat development. Alder should be encouraged as part of the management plan.

Camille Bruhn, WDNR – She is working on water quality analysis within Tri-Creek and Moore Creek near Norwalk. 16 different sites are being monitored with 9 sites done so far. There will be some additional sampling done in October and data summary activities later in the year. Bob Micheel noted there might be potential for phosphorus trading for the Norwalk area.

Bob Micheel, County Conservationist, Monroe County Land Conservation Department – Update on the history the Tri-Creek area. He noted that the Norwalk Rod and Gun Club disbanded and the county has taken over the electrical utility at the site. The small buildings on the site are in disrepair and will probably have to be torn down at some point. Bob also noted funding from American Transmission Company (ATC) may be available to put towards the purchase of the Mark Roberts property where the dam and adjacent forest is located.

Armund Bartz, WDNR and Eric Epstein – Armund stated that native trout and a very diverse aquatic species are present in the Tri-Creek area. Eric noted many years of wood turtle data has been turned over to graduate students at UW-Madison for analysis and summary. Additional wood turtle monitoring may begin next spring.

Invasive Species – Bob Micheel has resurrected the county Invasive Species Committee with the main goal of educating the community about invasive species. The next meeting will be Thursday, September 28, 2017 at the Monroe County Land Conservation Department beginning at 1:00 PM. There will be an invasive species tour at the covered bridge in Sparta at 11:30 AM. Bob will email the complete details to our committee.

Spring locations – Chad stated the spring locations on the northern half of the property have been located. It was noted that the recent wet weather has opened up spring areas that that may not have shown up previously.

Bob Micheel noted that the cropland located in the valley is in the 2nd year of the 5-year lease.

Next meeting will be scheduled for either mid to late October or early December. Ron Luethe will send out an email soliciting preferred dates and get back to the committee to schedule.

At the next meeting we will discuss management goals that each of us envision for the Tri-Creek property.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ron Luethe