

Tri-Creek Land Use Planning Committee

August 24, 2016 - 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Ridgeville Town Hall

Those present included:

Bob Micheel, Monroe County Land Conservation District
Armund Bartz, DNR, LaCrosse, WI
Abbie Church, Mississippi Valley Conservancy, LaCrosse, WI
Eric Epstein, Township of Ridgeville resident
Inese Epstein, Township of Ridgeville resident
Charlie Neumann, Township of Ridgeville resident
Ron Luethe, Ridgeville Township Supervisor

Updates to resource data assignments were presented:

Forest and plant inventories – Bob Micheel stated Chad Ziegler is continuing the recon of the forest areas within Tri-Creek. It was suggested that a large format GIS map be developed depicting forest types, ages, etc. using topographic data as the background.

Stream, water quality analysis – Bob Micheel presented information from Jordan Weeks, DNR Fisheries from 1968 – 2007 stream and water quality data. Additional data may need to be gathered to reflect current trends.

History of the Watershed Dam – Bob Micheel – no updates at this time.

Threatened and Endangered species identification – both aquatic and terrestrial – Eric Epstein and Armund Bartz. Armund presented data from a NHI query concerning terrestrial T & E species. The list was mostly bird species with quite a few considered rare. Eric noted several rare terrestrial plant species that include dripping sedge, adam and eve orchid, and butternut. Butternut is threatened with a canker that kills most trees. Eric presented information on aquatic species, mainly the wood turtle.

Wildlife Resources – Chad Ziegler – Bob Micheel asked Armund if he would contact Ron Lichtie, DNR Wildlife Biologist if he and Ron could put together a list of the general wildlife species within Tri-Creek. Armund noted the presence and kind of small mammal species within Tri-Creek may need to be inventoried.

Invasive species location – both aquatic and terrestrial – Chad Ziegler – Bob Micheel noted these species will be part of the forest inventory that Chad is currently conducting.

Agricultural History of the area – Inese Epstein. Inese presented a brief history of the Village of Norwalk. She will provide this history for the resource inventory binder.

Spring locations – Monroe County GIS Personnel. It was suggested this data be gathered this fall after leaf off to obtain the best GPS signal within the forest canopy. Armund noted that old topographic maps may provide possible locations of the springs within Tri-Creek.

Wood Turtle – Eric Epstein. Eric described the habitat and nesting areas of the wood turtle within Tri-Creek. He also noted Tri-Creek is the southern most habitat for the wood turtle with any significant numbers present.

Cultural resources inventory – Ron Luethe. Ron reported that Eric Epstein had contacted UW-Stevens Point and Ray Reser, Director, UWSP-Museum of Natural History had located the original documents from the 1970's study of the Tri-Creek area. They include hand drawn maps, field notes, slides, artifacts and draft reports. This information is available and Bill Quackenbush was invited to contact Ray to further investigate this information. Ron received a email from Bill prior to our meeting noting he has not made contact with Ray due to office re-location.

Bike Trail History – Karen Parker, et.al. Ron Luethe will research 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.

Geological history – Bob Micheel presented information from NRCS WI-MN State Geologist Tim Weisbrod on the geology of the Tri-Creek area.

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

Ron Luethe