

Minutes of the UMRCC fisheries meeting at Wyalusing State Park
September 8 – 9, 2014

The fisheries committee had 28 people at attendance at times throughout the meeting. It was a very lively meeting with great interaction of the partners. We would like to thank the Wisconsin DNR for hosting the meeting and the use of the great facilities at Wyalusing!

Besides the professional interaction of the partners other highlights of the meeting included a field trip to the Bertrom HREP area. Bertrom was one of the original HREPS and the fisheries committee visited all the features of the project including the dredge cuts, bean island sentiment area and the habitat channel. The committee pulled out original plans at the site and discussed how habitat features are performing now some 25 plus years post construction. Members discussed with the mussel committee how to sample the habitat channel to determine mussel colonization of the area. The technical section was impressed with the longevity to the project and just how well planned the project was. The fisheries committee would like to thank Jeff Janvrin for organizing the tour and acting as tour guide.

At the business meeting one of the major subjects of discussion was how the UMRCC fisheries committee was going to respond to the “Year of Fishing” planned for next year on the Upper Mississippi River Refuge. Cindy Samples gave a presentation on the “Year of Fishing” concept and some of the ideas coming forward. The group decided to form an “ad hoc” committee to determine what actions should be initiated by the UMRCC fisheries technical committee, and what each of the partner agencies can contribute to the cause. The ad hoc committee will be chaired by Mr. Pat Short and other volunteer members include: Jon Duyvejonck, Ross Dames, Brian Brecka, Chuck Theiling, Dan Dieterman, and Karen Osterkamp. They will report back to the full fish tech committee at the spring meeting.

On the last day the committee had a couple very fine presentations on backwater nutrient cycling by Chuck Theiling and Bill Richardson and we were pleased to have them at the meeting. Nutrient cycling especially for nitrogen might be an excellent way to “double dip” benefits of the HREP restorations. Both presenters discussed ways we can move waters away from the channel and have backwater process the water potentially stripping them of nutrients that lead to gulf hypoxia and other environmental issues. The group discussed opportunities to do this type of work and the on-going studies at Finger Lakes and potentially at Mud Lake HREPS.



Site visit to Bertrom HREP. Upper left is the tight squeeze to get equipment through at Far Enough boat landing. Upper right is Jeff Janvrin acting as a tour guide pointing out a project feature while Kenny and Jon look the other way. Lower left a site visit to the habitat channel feature of the Bertrom HREP and group discussing ways to mussel sample the region. Lower right, Karen and other fish squeezers actually went on land. Picture was taken at the bean island feature or sediment placement site which appears to now be a high quality isolated wetland.