



KETTLE MORAINE LAND TRUST

Serving the Southern Kettle Moraine lakes area in Walworth County, Wisconsin

Progress Report - Delavan Lake Watershed Initiative Network December 15, 2011

Major highlights and progress of Kettle Moraine Land Trust's work to facilitate the Delavan Lake Watershed Initiative Network (WIN) since the last monthly report are described below.

1. The Outreach & Education Workgroup met on November 16th. The workgroup felt that an event to build awareness in the local communities about Delavan Lake WIN and its purpose was important and should occur before the educational site tours scheduled for the summer. It agreed to join with the County's rain barrel sale/pickup for a spring event. The Rain Barrel Pickup will be moved to Delavan's Community Park to draw more watershed residents to the event and it will occur on Wednesday, April 25th. The Delavan Lake WIN members will coordinate with UWEX staff to offer native plants for sale that would be appropriate in rain gardens and lake shoreline buffers. The members also agreed to have short "Ask an Expert" opportunities to answer questions about shoreline buffers and native plantings; and to raise awareness of how individuals and businesses can improve and protect water quality. Summer tour information will be available as well.
2. The Steering Committee met on December 1. The Committee approved the Delavan Lake WIN Workplan for publication. The Committee also reviewed and discussed the Delavan Lake WIN website as presented by Susan Geye of Signalfire web design firm. Feedback was received on various aspects of the website and Susan agreed to modify the site accordingly. Other items discussed during the meeting included the expanded lake and stream monitoring plan. This plan has been developed by Delavan Lake WIN members with input from the Town of Delavan and USGS. The plan will be finalized once funding is solidified. The Committee also received reports from the Workgroup liaisons and member updates. UW-Whitewater had a representative present at the meeting and with the project manager's support is pursuing execution of the Delavan Lake WIN Memorandum of Understanding to become an official member.
3. Agricultural conservation project work through the Mississippi River Basin Healthy Initiative continues. Land owners and operators with conservation projects that have been certified as complete and who qualify for conservation incentive grants have been awarded them. This follows the procedure set forth by the DLSD and outlined in the Mississippi River Basin

Healthy Initiative (MRBI) 2010 grant proposal. Incentive payments to date total \$7,693.80 with \$1,000 to be paid for practices not yet certified complete. To date 2,111 acres in the watershed have benefited from conservation practice installations. The additional funds available through this grant resulted in 75% of the installation costs for these practices to be reimbursed to the farmer or landowner. Reimbursement contracts for the 2010 and 2011 fiscal years total \$194,155.00. The Natural Resource Conservation Service expects \$73,000 to be available in the next and final fiscal year of this grant. See attached annual MRBI grant report for additional information.

4. The Delavan Lake WIN website has moved from design into the development phase. The website design firm has made progress according to schedule. The Delavan Lake WIN program manager is working closely with the design firm to modify the web pages, create content, locate and upload graphics and files and create navigation routes. Testing will be completed prior to launch the week of December 21.
5. Grant announcements by the US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) were recently released that may apply to Delavan Lake WIN programs and projects. The project manager has reviewed the requests for proposals as well as participated in an US EPA webinar. The US EPA funding scope is very limited and will award only 4 proposals for \$40,000 - \$60,000 each across our 6 state region (MN, WI, IL, IN, OH, MI). Of the two grant possibilities the WDNR grant has potential and can fund wetland construction and stream bank protection projects up to \$150,000. The WDNR grant application documents will be available January 17.
6. Other significant efforts include a presentation given to the Elkhorn Rotary Club about the Delavan Lake WIN collaborative effort and purpose. The project manager is also assisting the author of an article in development for the Wisconsin Natural Resources Magazine that acknowledges Delavan Lake WIN and its watershed approach and projects.

Upcoming DL WIN meetings:

- Outreach & Education Workgroup; January 18, 2012
- Delavan Lake WIN Community Informational Meeting (Jackson Creek River Protection Plan); February 21, 6:30 – 9:30 PM, Lake Lawn Resort Conference Center.
- Delavan Lake WIN Steering Committee; February 23, 2012



KETTLE MORAINE LAND TRUST

Serving the Southern Kettle Moraine lakes area in Walworth County, Wisconsin

November 28, 2011

To: Greg Igl, USDA-NRCS
From: Maggie Zoellner, KMLT
Re: 2011 Mississippi River Healthy Basins Initiative Report

The Kettle Moraine Land Trust entered into partnership with the USDA-NRCS through a Cooperative Conservation Partnership Agreement to engage in complementary and compatible activities to encourage conservation of natural resources in the Jackson Creek and Delavan Lake watersheds of the Rock River Basin in Wisconsin.

The Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI) is a voluntary conservation initiative that establishes specific parameters for working with eligible partner entities to provide financial and technical assistance to owners and operators of agricultural and nonindustrial private forest lands. The assistance provided through this partnership agreement enables producers to install and maintain conservation practices to address priority natural resource concerns.

The annual funding provided in 2011 to assist owners and operators was \$85,235 for the installation of the following practices: Grassed Waterway, Mulching, Subsurface Drainage, Underground Outlet and a Grade Stabilization Structure. These practices were installed to address priority needs in the watershed. The priority needs identified are:

1. Water Quality – Excessive Suspended Sediment and Turbidity in Surface Waters
2. Water Quality – Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Surface Waters
3. Soil Erosion – Sheet and Rill Erosion
4. Soil Erosion – Ephemeral Gully

Ranking criteria for applications were developed jointly between the Walworth County NRCS representative and KMLT. Efforts to help potential project participants reach project goals include raising awareness of the MRBI funding opportunity by direct mailing to approximately 249 owner and operators, press releases in local newspapers, a KMLT website link with detailed sign-up information, NRCS website information and direct contact via phone to potential participants.

The outreach effort resulted in 2 qualified applications. KMLT requested additional funds beyond the MRBI approved budget to cover the qualified applicants. Additional funds were approved and slightly more than 2,111 acres will benefit in the two watersheds as a result of Mississippi River Healthy Basins Initiative to date.

Besides the efforts of NRCS staff and KMLT, the Walworth County Land Use and Resource Management Department also contributed significant staff time. Technical field assistance was provided by Brian Smetana for the design projects. The Walworth County Land and Water Conservation Plan 2009-2014 contains objectives to reduce soil loss and improve water quality and therefore coincides with MRBI goals.

The Kettle Moraine Land Trust appreciates the efforts of NRCS and Walworth County and we look forward to future success in 2012.

cc: Brian Smetana / Walworth County LURM
Jerry Petersen / Kettle Moraine Land Trust