



Petenwell and Castle Rock Stewards

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This message is sent on behalf of PACRS President, Rick Georgeson

Members,

I am very pleased to inform you the TMDL has been approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The final report, 800 + pages, was assembled by the WDNR with such comprehension that their approval was received within only four months of being submitted in late December. This TMDL includes the entire watershed of the Wisconsin River, which is the equivalent to 20% of the state. It is the largest TMDL in the State of Wisconsin. What does this do? You might say the TMDL is like a diet for the watershed to reduce the amount of nutrients that enter the water. Excessive nutrients feed the algae. We know 1 lb. of phosphorous is capable of producing 500 lbs of algae. Reducing phosphorous is needed to bring water quality up to the clean water act standards.

The next step is implementing the necessary changes on the land. In some cases this is already underway. By bringing the many stakeholders together and forming new partnerships, we are confident the result will be improved water quality.

The relationships formed between the many stakeholders are expected to be helpful as all of this comes together. Today, conversations exist between public works directors of municipalities, farmers, wastewater treatment plants, to name just a few. These are in place as a result of the effort to make all this happen. From the very beginning in 2007, we knew it would be most successful if a network of all stakeholders became comfortable engaging in the necessary discussions.

PACRS is grateful for this successful effort. We aim to keep our same respectful approach as we continue forward into implementation. I want to thank all our members for your continued support. I am inspired to know we continue to attract new members and our mission is supported by all of you!

Sincerely,
Rick Georgeson PACRS President