

FOX RIVER *CURRENT*

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Update from the Lower Fox River Intergovernmental Partnership

EPA, DNR Propose Changes to Original Cleanup Plan

By Susan Pastor, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is accepting public comments concerning proposed changes to the current cleanup plan for the Lower Fox River/Green Bay site.

EPA and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources are proposing a combination of capping and dredging from Appleton to Green Bay. These sections of the river are referred to as operable units 2-5. The new plan would reduce the amount of dredging required in those areas, especially where it now appears that dredging would be virtually impossible due to instances where sediment is buried too deep, too close to utilities, or where dredging could cause damage to riverbanks. A back-up option in the current plan already allows for capping in some areas.

The proposed plan would separate the site into much smaller areas allowing the cleanup to be customized to meet the particular conditions in each of those areas. It would also allow the cleanup to be implemented faster and would make better use of limited landfill space. The proposed plan is estimated to cost \$390 million as opposed to the \$580 million associated with the original plan approved in 2002 and 2003.

“Although this new plan is a bit cheaper, we expect it to cost nearly \$400 million which is still a lot of money,” said EPA Remedial Project Manager Jim Hahnenberg. “This is still the largest and most expensive sediment cleanup project in the country.”

Further information on the recommended plan can be found in the basis of design report, technical

memorandum and proposed plan fact sheet dated November 2006. These documents can be found in the site information repositories on page 7 and online at www.epa.gov/region5/sites/foxriver and at www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/wm/foxriver/bodrreport.html.

EPA Accepts Written Comments Until Jan. 11

By Susan Pastor, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

If you haven't sent in your comment regarding the proposed changes to the Lower Fox River cleanup plan, there is still time.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is accepting written comments through Jan. 11, 2007 in a variety of ways. Comments may be submitted by the deadline electronically via the Internet at www.epa.gov/region5/publiccomment/foxriver-pubcomment.htm and fax at (312) 353-1155. Those sent via postal mail must be postmarked by Jan. 11 and directed to Susan Pastor, Community Involvement Coordinator, U.S. EPA, P-19J, 77 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604. You may use the pre-addressed form on page 5 or your own typed or handwritten version.

Third Season of Dredging Ends on Little Lake Butte des Morts

By Greg Swanson, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

The third season of dredging PCB-contaminated sediment from Little Lake Butte des Morts wrapped up on Nov. 17 and the dredges were taken out of the river the following week.

Because the work planned for 2006 was completed ahead of schedule in early October, an additional work area was dredged at the end of the season.

Initial estimates by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency pegged the volume of PCBs in the sediment in Little Lake Butte des Morts at about 4,100 pounds. During the first three years of dredging, the Little Lake Cleanup Team, led by WTM I and Glatfelter, have concentrated on the portions of the lake with the greatest amounts of PCBs. About two-thirds or 2,700 pounds of the PCB mass contained in the sediment have been removed.

“We’re pleased that the work this year was completed on or slightly ahead of schedule, because that means we’ll be able to move ahead with the plans for next year’s work more easily,” said DNR Project Coordinator Greg Hill.

Hauling the dewatered sediment to the Hickory Meadows Landfill near Chilton will continue over



After the sediment is dewatered in geotubes, it is trucked to a landfill.

the winter and in-water work is expected to resume in spring 2007. The planning and design process for the 2007 season is already underway.

More information on the Little Lake Butte des Morts cleanup can be found at the Little Lake Cleanup Team’s Web site – www.littlelakecleanup.com. The team can also be contacted by phone at (920) 912-5065 or by e-mail at littlelakecleanup@execpc.com. Additional information on the Lower Fox River cleanup can be found at the Web sites listed on page 7.

Area Residents Pack Auditorium to Comment on Proposed Changes

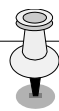
By Susan Pastor, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Nearly 300 people jammed the Brown County Library auditorium on Dec. 5 to voice their opinions to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources concerning proposed changes to the Lower Fox River cleanup plan.

During the public comment portion of the meeting, several people opposed the new plan, which involves less dredging and the use of more sand covers. Commenters claimed that these covers aren't as permanent as dredging and are about \$200 million cheaper than the plan approved in 2003. EPA Remedial Project Manager Jim Hahnenberg explained that while cost is a consideration, other factors also played a part in this recommendation.

"Because this plan allows for the river cleanup to be broken out into smaller areas, it can be tailored to meet particular geological conditions in those areas," he explained. "This plan also would allow the cleanup to be completed faster. Since there aren't too many places we can take sediment contaminated with high levels of PCBs, it would also make better use of limited landfill space within and outside of Wisconsin."

Although those who favored the proposed plan were outnumbered 2-1, they also used the meeting to be heard. Some supported the caps saying that under the proposed plan, the river will be cleaned up faster and they will be able to fish there sooner. Others believed the new plan will economically benefit the Green Bay area.



Out and About...

By Susan Pastor, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

The Fox River Intergovernmental Partnership is made up of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin and Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin. These partners, as well as other supporting agencies, regularly provide speakers to organizations in the Fox Valley area. The following people recently made presentations:

October

- ◆ *Jim Hahnenberg*, EPA: Lawrence University Environmental Studies Seminar, Appleton; general Superfund process and Lower Fox River cleanup.
- ◆ *Betsy Galbraith*, Oneida Tribe: Oneida Fall Fest community event, Oneida; general natural resource damage assessment.

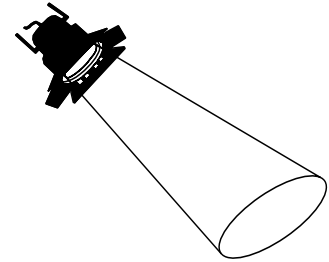
November

- ◆ *Jim Hahnenberg*, EPA: Department of Defense Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program Symposium, Washington, D.C.; Little Lake Butte des Morts dredging project.

December

- ◆ *Greg Hill*, DNR: Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation District Administrators annual meeting, Appleton; general Lower Fox River cleanup and NRDA.
- ◆ *Greg Hill*, DNR: De Pere City Council meeting, De Pere; Lower Fox River proposed plan.
- ◆ *Jim Hahnenberg*, EPA and *Greg Hill*, DNR: Science and Technical Advisory Committee, Green Bay; Lower Fox River proposed plan.

The Fox River Current is featuring promising natural resource damage assessment projects in and near the Lower Fox River.



Spotlight On:

Gordon Nauman Conservation Area

By Colette Charbonneau, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The village of Howard officially opened the Gordon Nauman Conservation Area to the public this past summer. The newly acquired 29-acre parcel includes almost 800 feet of frontage on Duck Creek, a tributary to the bay of Green Bay.

The Fox River/Green Bay Natural Resource Trustee Council approved the restoration project through the 2002 natural resource damage assessment and restoration agreement with Fort James Operating Co. (Georgia-Pacific). The approved project also included funding for the construction of passive recreation such as bird watching, hiking and cross-country skiing on the acquired land.

The conservation area preserves a significant portion of the Duck Creek estuary or mouth of the river where it enters into the bay. The land consists of a wide diverse habitat including a cleared, park-like area, which once was a residence, wooded and grassy wetlands, and wooded uplands. Recreational facilities planned for the area include a picnic shelter, a parking lot, a trail to Duck Creek, and a canoe launch. The new facilities will create expanded access to shoreline and floodplain activities including hiking, nature observation and study, fishing, hunting, picnicking, and canoeing.



PHOTO COURTESY OF VILLAGE OF HOWARD

A ceremony was held in August to dedicate the Gordon Nauman Conservation Area, a newly acquired property, to the former village trustee. During the ceremony, Carlene Felmer, village president (left) presented Monica Nauman, wife of Gordon Nauman (middle) and Kirk Nauman, son of Gordon Nauman with a photograph commemorating the event.

“This park property will be such a benefit to our citizens and our park system,” said Village President Carlene Felmer. “Not only will it help restore the environment, but it will be a great place to enjoy nature and tranquility as it maintains its natural habitat.”

The natural areas on the Gordon Nauman Conservation Area will be maintained using wildlife habitat management activities. The wetlands will be preserved for all to enjoy.

See **Spotlight**, Page 7

Lower Fox River Site Comment Sheet

Detach, fold, stamp, and mail

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____
Zip _____

Place
Stamp
Here

Susan Pastor
Community Involvement Coordinator
Office of Public Affairs (P-19J)
EPA Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Spotlight from Page 4

The natural resource trustees are comprised of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, Michigan Attorney General, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

For further information on NRDA projects, contact Trustee Council Coordinator Colette Charbonneau, FWS, at Colette_Charbonneau@fws.gov or at (920) 866-1726.



PHOTO COURTESY OF VILLAGE OF HOWARD

The Gordon Nauman Conservation Area includes this cleared, park-like area.

Information Available at Local Libraries

The Intergovernmental Partners invite the public to review technical reports, fact sheets and other documents related to the Lower Fox River cleanup at information repositories set up in the reference sections of the local libraries listed below. Information repositories at the public libraries in De Pere, Kaukauna, Little Chute, Neenah and Wrightstown have been discontinued. However, binders containing fact sheets are being maintained at these locations as well as at the following repositories:

- **Appleton Public Library**, 225 N. Oneida St., Appleton, Wis.; (920) 832-6170
- **Brown County Library**, 515 Pine St., Green Bay, Wis.; (920) 448-4381, Ext. 394
- **Door County Library**, 107 S. Fourth Ave., Sturgeon Bay, Wis.; (920) 743-6578
- **Oneida Community Library**, 201 Elm St., Oneida, Wis.; (920) 869-2210
- **Oshkosh Public Library**, 106 Washington Ave., Oshkosh, Wis.; (920) 236-5205



An administrative record, which contains detailed information upon which the selection of the final site cleanup plan was based, is also available for review at two DNR offices: 801 E. Walnut St., Green Bay, Wis. and 101 S. Webster St., 2nd Floor, Madison, Wis. An administrative record is also available at the EPA Record Center, 77 W. Jackson Blvd., 7th Floor, Chicago, Ill.

DNR Information System Available Online

The Lower Fox River Environmental Information Management System is now available on the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Fox River Web page at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/wm/foxriver/index.html> under the Reports and Documents Database section.

The EIMS is a single repository containing public data on water, sediment, animals, and air that has been obtained for the Lower Fox River cleanup project. It also contains project documents and photos. By using the EIMS, the public is able to quickly and easily access all information concerning the project from a single location.

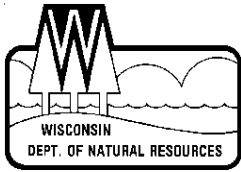
**Check out these Web sites:**

<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/wm/foxriver/index.html>

<http://www.epa.gov/region5/sites/foxriver/>

<http://contaminants.fws.gov/Issues/Restoration.cfm>

<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/nrda/index.html>



Prepared by the Fox River Intergovernmental Partnership: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Supporting agencies include Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in these articles are solely those of the authors and are not necessarily shared by all members of the Fox River Intergovernmental Partnership.

<i>INSIDE</i>	FOX RIVER CURRENT
EPA, DNR Propose Changes to Original Cleanup Plan	1
EPA Accepts Written Comments Until Jan. 11	1
Third Season of Dredging Ends on Little Lake Butte des Morts	2
Area Residents Pack Auditorium to Comment on Proposed Changes	3
Out and About...	3
Spotlight On: Gordon Nauman Conservation Area	4
Comment Sheet	5
DNR Information System Available Online	7
Web Site Addresses	7
Information Repository Locations	7

Fox River Current is published bimonthly by the Fox River Intergovernmental Partnership. Its purpose is to provide up-to-date information about cleanup and restoration efforts on the Lower Fox River. Call Greg Swanson at (608) 264-6024 to request a subscription or alternative format. Feedback on articles and ideas for future issues are welcome. Send comments to Greg Swanson, *Fox River Current*, DNR, CE/8, P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707 or e-mail <gregory.swanson@dnr.state.wi.us>



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