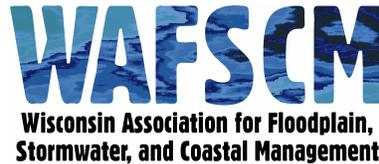

WATER MATTERS

A NEWSLETTER FOR PEOPLE CONCERNED WITH WATER MANAGEMENT ISSUES



SEPTEMBER, 2007

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Summer signals that it is time to start preparing the program for the WAFSCM Annual Conference in November. Traditionally, intense conference program organization is conducted at the July Board meeting. During the meeting submitted abstracts are summarized, potential plenary speakers identified, and sessions directed at new topics are planned. The Call for Speakers is out and the deadline for abstracts was August 15, 2007. Submittals after that date can be saved for the following year. See our website at <http://wi.floods.org> for a copy of the Call.

I am very enthusiastic as we enter our seventh year as an organization. The Annual Conference is discussed in detail later in the newsletter. It takes many people to run the conference. If you would like to help by moderating a session, setting up computers and projectors, working the registration table, or taking luncheon tickets, please do not hesitate to volunteer. Just send an email to David Fowler the conference chair, DFowler@mmsd.org. At the next conference committee meeting, we will work out the details and the assignments.

Please note the conference this year will be on Thursday, November 8 with a field trip on November 9, 2007, both in Appleton. The notices and registration forms will be out in September.

WAFSCM Officer Elections will be held during the Annual Conference. WAFSCM has four elected officers, Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. Officers are elected each year and can serve only two years in the position. This year the Chair and Treasurer are ending their second term. If you are interested in serving on the WAFSCM board, or would like to nominate a worthy candidate, contact me, Elections Committee Chair, dan.cook@gasai.com (see page 4).

There are also a number of committees, as listed on the WAFSCM website, <http://wi.floods.org>. If you are interested in serving on the Board in that capacity, you can send your name and contact information to me (dan.cook@gasai.com) and I will pass it on to the new Chair.

The next newsletter will be in the winter, so this is my opportunity to thank everyone for the help and support during my two years as Chair. It has been a great experience working with a terrific team of dedicated professionals. Thank you to the members who elected me, and best wishes to the next WAFSCM Chair.

Please take the online survey at <http://wi.floods.org>.

I hope to see you in Appleton at the Annual Conference called "In Our Back Yard: Sustainable Flood, Stormwater and Coastal Management" on November 7 - 9.

Daniel Cook, P.E., CFM
Chairperson

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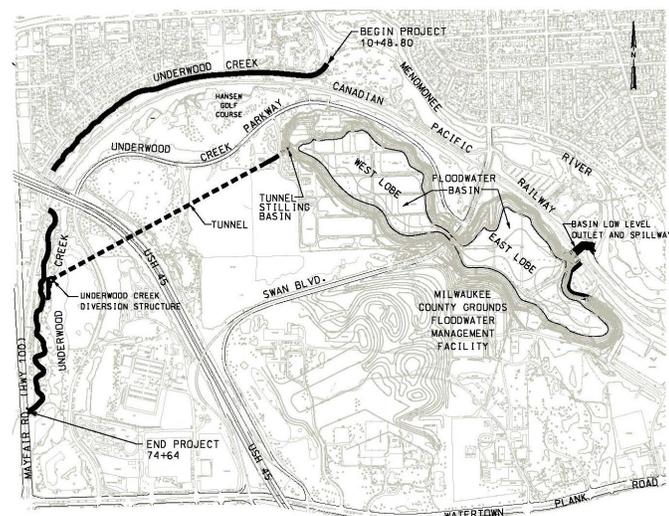
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UNDERWOOD CREEK REHABILITATION AND FLOOD MANAGEMENT– MEMOMONEE RIVER WATERCOURSE, MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Thomas R. Sear, PE (SEH) – David C. Fowler, CFM (MMSD)

Underwood Creek is a major tributary of the Menomonee River, extending approximately eight miles from its confluence with the Menomonee River, near Milwaukee County Grounds (MCG), to its headwaters in Waukesha County. The Underwood Creek Watershed is approximately 84 percent developed with a variety of urban land uses. To address local flood management concerns, Underwood Creek underwent considerable alteration in the mid-1960's, including channel widening and realignment, and the installation of concrete lining along a significant portion of its length, which negatively impacted aquatic and floodplain habitat. These channel alterations have resulted in increased peak discharges and channel velocities during periods of intense rainfall that successfully reduced peak water surface elevations along Underwood Creek, but contributed to flooding conditions along portions of the Menomonee River located downstream.

As a result, the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) initiated the design and installation of an approximately 900 acre-feet floodwater storage facility on MCG property that will receive excess floodwaters from Underwood Creek. Reduced peak discharges on Underwood Creek provide an opportunity to rehabilitate a portion of this watercourse through removal of the concrete channel lining, and the development of a meandering bioengineered channel, with riffle and pool sequences. In 2006 MMSD completed the *Underwood Creek Rehabilitation and Flood Management (R&FM) Preliminary Engineering Project*, which addressed the removal of concrete channel lining and drop structures along approximately 6,600 feet of Underwood Creek watercourse, extending from the confluence with the Menomonee River to the downstream face of Mayfair Road (U.S. Highway 100), as presented on Figure 1 (Underwood Creek and Milwaukee County Grounds Location Map).



MMSD conducted a series of meetings and discussions with project stakeholders including Milwaukee County, who owns much of the property containing the Underwood Creek corridor; Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR), which owns the railway corridor that is aligned parallel to Underwood Creek; and the City of Wauwatosa, which represents nearby citizens and private property owners. Environmental permitting stakeholders included the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, who jointly addressed the permitting requirements of the MCG Floodwater Management Facility and Underwood Creek R&FM Projects.

Project goals and objectives developed through stakeholder discussions include:

- **Priority One - Flood Management and Public Safety:** Channel rehabilitation design is required to conform to MMSD flood management design criteria, as related to the one percent probability (100-year) design discharge.
- **Priority Two - Stability and Maintenance:** Provide for an immobile and stable main channel for watercourse flows up to the 100-year design discharge. Also, provide a vegetated floodplain surface that resists significant adjustment and maintains stable side slopes, during the 100-year design discharge.
- **Priority Three - Riparian Vegetation:** Use native plant species as part of the project revegetation program for stability, habitat value and aesthetics.
- **Priority Four - Fisheries and Stream Biota:** Provide conditions of the main channel that include Percent Pool (40% to 60%); Width to Depth Ratio ($W:D < 7$); Riffle to Riffle Ratio, average distance between riffles / average stream width ($R:R < 10$); and Residual Water Depth in Pools and Runs (> 1 meter).
- **Priority Five - Wildlife:** Provide habitat to support a variety of native birds, mammals, terrestrial invertebrates, reptiles and amphibians through all life stages. Butler's gartersnake was identified as a species of special concern.
- **Priority Six - Public Use:** Provide conditions so that at a future date a trail can be developed within in the flood conveyance corridor for hikers and anglers.

MMSD recently initiated the Underwood Creek R&FM – Phase 1 Design Project, which includes the final design and construction of channel and floodplain improvements for approximately 2,200 feet of Underwood Creek watercourse, located immediately downstream of Mayfair Road (Hwy. 100). Construction of improvements is scheduled to occur in 2008.

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2006 CONFERENCE SUMMARY

This past year, the annual conference “*Managing Flood Risks in a Post-Katrina World*” in Stevens Point was a great success. We had at least 80 participants and provided two new opportunities. We had a workshop on Wednesday afternoon entitled “Public Issues and Conflict Management” which was attended by 20 participants. We also added a hospitality room this year which seemed to be very popular with conference attendees (late night crowd) and we will continue that practice this year.

2007 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

For 2007 we will be at the Radisson Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton, November 7 - 9, 2007. The title of the conference is “*In our Backyard - Sustainable Flood, Stormwater and Coastal Management Solutions in Wisconsin*”. We already have 11 concurrent presentations and have gotten commitments from all of our plenary speakers. The concurrent presentations will cover a variety of topics in two breakout sessions, and will provide an excellent forum to learn about projects and issues that are ongoing here in the state. We will also have workshop opportunity on Wednesday afternoon for those who are interested. The topic this year will be Floodplain Management 101, and will be conducted by Eric Kuklewski from FEMA Region V. This workshop’s attendees have found it very rewarding.

On Friday we are planning a tour of the Fox River and stormwater BMP projects in the Appleton area instead of our past practice of having speakers on Friday. Another change will be a reduction in the registration costs (\$50 for municipal officials and members) which we hope will help keep our attendance growing.

So please mark you calendars for the WAFSCM conference on November 7th, 8th and 9th, 2007 at the Radisson Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton. A call for papers has already been distributed and the brochure and registration materials will be coming soon. You can also find information at our website, <http://wi.floods.org>.

Dave Fowler, Conference Co-Chairman

ASFPM 31ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE: JUNE 3–8, 2007 NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

The conference was held in Norfolk, Virginia—my first extended stay in the state, which gave me some time to explore the ocean side of the Chesapeake Bay. This was my first conference as a board member so I had already been in Norfolk for two days of board meetings before the conference had even started. The best part of the conference for me was the plenary speakers who spoke with some passion on the critical need for the nation to take dramatic action to prevent future Katrina-like disasters

with continued population growth along the coasts that are at serious risk as the climate warms and severe storms become more prevalent. The highlight was the Keynote Speaker for the Tuesday luncheon, James Lee Witt, who earned several standing ovations for his observations about the status of flood risk management, resource protection, and mitigation and the need for people to accept that the federal government cannot and should not solve all their problems.

Along with the plenary sessions, there were many workshops and small group panels, where there were small group presentations followed by discussions that explored a variety of topics. Among the prominent topics were watershed restoration, levee issues, state initiatives in flood mapping, repetitive loss for structures, coastal risk, stormwater management, modeling, and no adverse impact floodplain management and flood insurance. There was also a new approach taken for streamlining the committee meetings—setting three committees with similar interests in a single room where they met separately and together on issues that overlapped more than one committee.

The conference was not all work and no play. Most nights there were evening gatherings sponsored by one or more of the national consulting firms where conference attendees had a chance to socialize and network. On Thursday night, the conference reception was held at the Norfolk Maritime Museum which is home to Battleship Wisconsin which is still an active U.S. Navy warship. Most of the Wisconsin delegation gathered for a picture in front of the ship after our tour.



back row (left to right): Bob Watson, Susan Boldt, Dave Fowler, Bruce Baird, Kris Baird, Gary Heinrichs, and Miriam Anderson
front row (left to right): Unidentified and Roxanne Gray

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ASFPM 31ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE *(continued)*

On Friday, I went on one of the field trips—a Chesapeake Bay Eco Tour by kayak. It was very interesting and educational and as we neared the naval air station, we had jet fighters overhead almost constantly, which added a certain element of excitement. Upon my return to the hotel and with some time to kill before I had to get to the airport, I was able to watch the arrival of over 40 international tall ships that were arriving for the Norfolk harbor festival. Overall, it was a wonderful trip, except for the flight delays on the way home where I ended up spending the night in Cleveland. I highly recommend the national conference if you can make it.

Dave Fowler, Region 5 Director

WAFSCM OFFICER NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

The Wisconsin Association for Floodplain, Stormwater and Coastal Management's Constitution establishes four elected officers for the Association. The Constitution states that "The Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer shall be elected annually from the membership of the Association and may not serve more than two consecutive one-year terms in the same office."

These four officers and the Immediate Past Chair form the Executive Committee of the Association. The main purpose of the Executive Committee is to organize the Board of Directors. "The Chair may appoint, with the approval of the Executive Committee, committees to assist in conducting the business of the Association." The Board of Directors "shall be comprised of the Executive Committee and the Chair of each Committee. The Chair of the Association shall serve as Chair of the Board of Directors and each other Association officer shall serve as the same officer for the Board."

This has proven to be very effective methods to have active and interested people serve as Committee chairs and on the Board of Directors, without giving any one person too much power.

With our annual conference comes the election of officers. We hope that interested people will submit nominations for next year's positions. Submit nominations to Dan Cook, GASAI, 414/266-9092 or dan.cook@gasai.com.

TIME FOR WAFSCM AWARDS

Gary Korb

At the November conference in Appleton, the Association would like to present several awards, relying upon the membership for nominations. The Board has acted to establish a Chapter Service Award, a Local Award for Excellence, and would entertain a Lifetime Achievement Award, if appropriate.

The Awards Program was begun in 2006 with presentation of the First Chapter Service Award to Dave Fowler of the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District. Dave was instrumental in forming WAFSCM, holding many and varied leadership positions in guiding our fledgling Association (see also previous newsletter article). The Board is anxious to continue and expand upon this recognition for 2007.

The **Chapter Service Award** is intended to recognize individuals who, through significant accomplishments and/or long-term efforts, have clearly influenced the work of the Association to improve floodplain, stormwater, or coastal management in Wisconsin.

The **Local Award for Excellence** is intended to recognize an individual, organization, program, governmental unit, or the like, which has contributed outstanding work where "the rubber meets the road" toward implementing sound floodplain, stormwater, or coastal management.

A **Lifetime Achievement Award** would also be entertained for distinguished and extensive service, normally over the course of a career, toward advancing the cause and/or ideals of best practical floodplain, stormwater, or coastal management.

The Lifetime Achievement Award would not necessarily be given every year, and additional criteria may emerge in the future. But it was felt that deserving candidates may exist whose recognition for this highest of awards should not be passed over while the Association's Awards Program matures.

In order to make award nominations a fairly easy process which is not cumbersome for members, the Board is simply asking for the following, pertaining to both the submitter and nominee (may be one-in-the-same):

Name

Title

Affiliation

Contact information, including email

Brief description of merit (regarding nominee; no resumes, please)

Statement of knowledge/familiarity re: the meritorious person(s) and work (submitter perspective)

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TIME FOR WAFSCM AWARDS *(continued)*

Please provide the information by October 1, 2007, preferably electronically, and feel free to direct any questions to:

Gary Korb, WAFSCM Awards Chair
UW-Extension/SEWRPC
W239 N1812 Rockwood Drive
P.O. Box 1607
Waukesha, WI 53187-1607
Phone: 262-547-6721
Fax: 262-547-1103
gkorb@sewrpc.org

Thank you for the consideration on behalf of deserving individuals, groups, and efforts.

WAFSCM OFFICERS

Chair – Daniel Cook, Graef Anhalt Schloemer & Associates, Inc., Milwaukee, dan.cook@gasai.com
Vice Chair – Cindi DeBruine, Hey & Associates, Brookfield, cdebruine@heyassoc.com
Treasurer – Roxanne Gray, Wisconsin Emergency Management Department of Military Affairs, Madison, roxanne.gray@dma.state.wi.us
Secretary – Susan Boldt, Wisconsin Emergency Management Department of Military Affairs, Madison, susan.boldt@dma.state.wi.us

EPA ISSUES NEW DOCUMENT SUMMARIZING 17 TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOADS WITH STORMWATER SOURCES

EPA recently issued a new document called "Total Maximum Daily Loads with Stormwater Sources: A Summary of 17 TMDLs." This report summarizes 17 TMDLs that have been developed for stormwater sources in 16 states throughout the country during the past eight years. They represent a range of pollutants, models used, and different allocation and implementation methods that will be helpful to TMDL practitioners and NPDES permitting agencies and permittees as they develop and implement new stormwater source TMDLs. The document may be viewed online at: www.epa.gov/owow/tmdl/techsupp.html.

DNR WEBSITE FOR MAPPING STATUS—OPEN HOUSES

The Department of Natural Resources has developed a website to provide communities and others with information regarding the Flood Map Modernization Program in Wisconsin. The website contains information on project status, the public open house schedule, the comment and appeal process, post preliminary map process and other mapping related issues.

Links to FEMA's website are included. The FEMA sites are for information on Letters of Map Change and the Map Service Center.

For further information regarding the Flood Map Modernization Program contact:

Amanda Schwoegler - Process Issues
amanda.schwoegler@wisconsin.gov

Bob Watson - Technical Issues
robert.watson@wisconsin.gov

Eric Kuklewski - FEMA
eric.kuklewski@dhs.gov

The website is located at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/wm/dsfm/flood/mapping.htm>

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