

**Upper Couderay River Watershed (UCRW) Coalition**  
**Saturday August 23, 2014**  
**Meeting**

<b>Present</b>	<b>Lake</b>	<b>Email</b>
Jackie Hanson	Sissabagama	<a href="mailto:jackieandbob53@yahoo.com">jackieandbob53@yahoo.com</a>
PJay Schaefer	Osprey	<a href="mailto:jpayschaefer@yahoo.com">jpayschaefer@yahoo.com</a>
Tom Baranick	Sand	<a href="mailto:tbaranick@aol.com">tbaranick@aol.com</a>
Dennis Westphal	Whitefish	<a href="mailto:den.gwest@gmail.com">den.gwest@gmail.com</a>
Steve Umland	LCO	<a href="mailto:umlandstudios@centurytel.net">umlandstudios@centurytel.net</a>
Gary Pulford	LCO	<a href="mailto:garylindapulford@charter.net">garylindapulford@charter.net</a>
Susan Horrocks	LCO	<a href="mailto:Horrocks@centurytel.net">Horrocks@centurytel.net</a>
Mark Laustrup	LCO	<a href="mailto:mлаustrup@aol.com">mлаustrup@aol.com</a>

Gary Pulford called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM. He decided to slightly modify the agenda sequence.

***Big Sissabagama Impaired Water Listing. Next Steps***

Gary Pulford asked Jackie Hanson what the lake association planned to do about being put on the WDNR 303(d) list as impaired. Jackie said that in 2011, Craig Ressler of WDNR completed a study that looked at cranberry bogs, septic systems, buffers, etc. and came to the conclusion that not much could be done as most of the phosphorus was from natural sources. There was some discussion on the validity of the conclusion given that open system cranberry bogs are involved.

Gary Pulford stated that it will be up to the Sissabagama lake association to develop a strategy to address the impairment listing.

Dennis Westphal said that there is a problem with Sawyer County septic haulers doing adequate inspections so it is difficult to account for septic system inputs. Mark Laustrup said that the haulers licenses require that they do the inspections and that the UCRW coalition would be a good way to pressure the county to enforce the issue with the haulers.

Sue Horrocks suggested that Sissabagama develop a Lake Management Plan to identify threats to water quality and provide a blueprint for what has to be done. In addition, PJay Schaefer suggested that Jackie Hanson contact Kristi Maki (Sawyer County) because she has all of the Aquatic Plant Management Plans that have been developed in the county. There was discussion on

whether other Lake Management Plans would be applicable to Sissabagama and the answer was yes, they would offer a good place to start.

Sue Horrocks also mentioned the “View From Your Dock” questionnaire that COLA used to ascertain the mood of LCO property owners. Sue will provide Jackie with a copy. PJay Schaefer mentioned that Jackie should also use the property values argument with her members to garner their support for action on the 303(d) listing. Gary Pulford said that COLA will send Jackie the LCO economic survey report, the LCO Lake Management Plan, and the View From Your Dock survey report . He went on to say that it is very important that Sissabagama get the WDNR in a meeting to explain what impaired means and what has to be done. Gary will follow up with WDNR and Jackie to arrange an initial meeting.

### ***COLA Submission of SSC and TMDL Studies to WDNR & EPA***

Gary Pulford provided a handout that explained the need for site-specific criteria (SSC) on LCO. Sediment core studies indicate that in 1850, phosphorus concentrations were 7-8 parts per billion (ppb) on LCO and that the current WDNR standard of 15 ppb is not sufficient to protect an Outstanding Resource Water (ORW) or the 2-story cold water fishery given the impact of climate change.

Gary summarized the pie-chart that identifies phosphorus sources and their contribution to the annual total phosphorus load to LCO. He then explained the table that identifies reductions necessary to protect LCO water quality. He explained the 2-story cold water fishery and the importance of it to LCO ecology. Dennis Westphal indicated that Whitefish Lake experienced a summer fish kill (whitefish) due to a very hot summer. Gary stated that a WDNR 15 ppb standard would spell a similar fate for Whitefish Lake. The SSC and TMDL studies are in the hands to WDNR & EPA and COLA expects to meet with them during the second week of September.

### ***Issues by Lake - Continued***

Gary Pulford summarized what issues have been identified up to this point.

#### Grindstone Lake

1. CLP in Little Grindstone
2. Shoreline restoration

#### Osprey Lake

1. Watershed issues
2. Aquatic invasive species

### 3. Dealing with multiple units of government (3 towns)

Tom Baranick

Sand Lake

1. Cranberry bog discharge into Sissabagama creek feeding into Sand.
2. Ag runoff issues – how to deal with it.
3. Sharing best management practices
4. AIS – could waterfowl be a vector for Eurasian Milfoil?

Tom went on to state that Sand Lake is stable at 20 ppb (phosphorus) and the thermocline is at 18-feet. The current 20 ppb is less than the WDNR standard of 30 ppb but it is still high. Steve Umland suggested that Tom contact Dan Tyrolt at the LCO Conservation Department; Dan has a different opinion on the health of Sand Lake.

Dennis Westphal

Whitefish Lake

1. Milfoil
2. Problem with permit turnaround. Need permit in 2-weeks. Steve Umland suggested that they use the previous years post-treatment survey for the current year permit; that's what COLA does.
3. Sand Lake as source of phosphorus for Whitefish Lake.

Jackie Hanson

Sissabagama Lake

1. Too much phosphorus

Gary Pulford suggested that the watershed coalition would be a great approach to dealing with AIS; one contractor, one permit application.

PJay Schaefer suggested that harvesting equipment would be a good job for a coalition. Dennis Westphal said that an individual on Whitefish Lake is experimenting with a suction dredge to clean up milfoil but that it is difficult to dislodge plants from hard sand substrate.

Gary Pulford suggested that another use of the coalition might be to reduce costs for sediment core analysis for ORW lakes.

### ***Formalizing a Watershed Coalition***

PJay Schaefer asked Gary Pulford for the next step; everyone thinks this is a good idea. Gary indicated that representatives from Grindstone Lake or Round Lake have not been in attendance to any of the meetings. PJay said that he knows the VP for the Round Lake association and will contact him to attend the next meeting.

Gary Pulford handed out the COLA wish list for things that LCO would like to see come out of a coalition.

1. Nomination of Whitefish and Sand lakes for inclusion on 303(d)
2. Paleo geologic studies of all ORW lakes
3. Development of a watershed wide phosphorus management plan
4. Cost-sharing of watershed wide expenses (ex. Ed/Communication)

Tom Baranick said that he would need to see the data supporting the listing of Sand Lake.

### ***Delegates to the September 6<sup>th</sup> Namekegon River Partnership Conference.***

Lakewoods (Cable), 9 AM – Noon.

### **Next meeting of UCRW coalition**

Discussion followed on the next step. It was decided that all attendees will bring a one page description of their current AIS control activities to the next meeting and attempt to develop a watershed approach to treatment. The next meeting is scheduled for **Saturday, October 11, 2014 at 9 AM**, Bass Lake Town Hall.

Sue Horrocks suggested that everyone bring 2-3 additional people from each lake association who could help out.