Current Flagstad Farm Contributors

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2003-2004 Conservancy Officers and Directors

Dennis Raedeke, *Chairman*
Rob Ilstrup, *President*
Jim Miller, *Vice President*
Don Hill, *Treasurer*
Julie Brady, *Secretary*
Allen Bergh
John Marinovich
Edwin "Mac" McBride
Roger Foussard
Jim Ostenson
Dick Weber
John Wright

Dedicated to the preservation of Deer Lake

The Deer Lake conservancy is a tax exempt organization incorporated in the state of Wisconsin and also registered in Polk County. The purpose of the organization is the preservation of Deer Lake and the surrounding land that contributes to the natural, scenic, recreational and productive value of the lake. As a 501C (3) corporation, any contributions are fully deductible from Federal and State income tax. Contributions may be in the form of cash, securities, property and land easements.

Contributions should be sent to

Deer Lake Conservancy
P.O. Box 1139
St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin 54024

Interested individuals may also contact Jim Miller by phone at 715-483-3338.

Deer Lake Conservancy Report

December 2003

New Signage Installed on Conservancy Projects and Trails

The Deer Lake Conservancy was awarded a Trail Grant from the Wisconsin DNR, which allowed for the production and installation of Conservancy project and trail signage and for upgrading the Rock Creek watershed trail system.

An explanation of the purpose of each project is detailed on the signs, which are located at the primary entrance to the conservation areas. Additionally, the Rock Creek woodland trail was resurfaced and a new drainage system was developed in necessary locations under the trail.

Color trail brochures were also printed with the grant money.

Rock Creek Conservation Project

Inside this report

Prairie Restoration Completed at Flagstad Farm

This summer the Deer Lake Conservancy, working with the Science Museum of Minnesota and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, completed one of the most complex prairie restorations in the Midwest on the Flagstad Farm.

"This restoration was accomplished with all local ecotype seed provided by the Science Museum and planted by the DNR", said Jim Miller, who supervised the project for the Conservancy.

When this prairie matures it will serve as a research center and seed source for future restoration projects. However, its' primary function will be to filter and buffer agricultural runoff from croplands in the watersheds to the south of Deer Lake.

A trail system is planned for this conservation area in the summer of 2004. The completed trail will provide an opportunity to view a now nearly extinct landscape, which existed in central Wisconsin since the end of the Ice Age.

Conservation Practice Report Card

A recent study by JEO Consulting and funded by a planning grant from the Wisconsin DNR, sought to identify the progress the Conservancy has made in reducing pollutant runoff to Deer Lake.

Practice Effectiveness

Conservation practices implemented in Deer Lake watersheds include prairie restorations, sediment basins, and wetland restorations. The JEO study confirms that these practices are very effective in reducing amounts of phosphorus and sediment in runoff from watersheds flowing to Deer Lake.

- **Prairie cover reduced sediment in runoff by up to 80%**
- **Sediment basins reduced sediment in runoff by around 90%**
- **Wetland restorations reduced sediment in runoff by over 60%**

Practice effectiveness was measured by sampling the amount of runoff water and concentrations of pollutants along with modeling of watershed and practice characteristics.

Recommendations

The study also recommended where conservation efforts should focus in the future.

1. The new Flagstad Farm property is located in watershed 6, which currently yields the highest amount of phosphorus to the lake. A recently planted prairie along with planned wetland restoration, will significantly reduce phosphorus entering the lake from this watershed.
2. The large watershed areas on the northwest side of the lake (we number these watershed 4 and 5) still contribute significant pollutants. We could decrease these by encouraging wetland restorations in these areas.
3. Another key area for improvement is on the very northeast side of the lake where farm runoff enters a pond that drains to the lake. Pond treatment options and permitting requirements are currently under investigation.

Information from: *Qualitative and quantitative analysis of identified Deer Lake Tributaries*. March 2003. JEO Consulting Group. The study was supported by a planning grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Highway 8 Corridor News

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation unveiled plans for the Highway 8 Corridor at a public meeting held at Unity High School on October 22, 2003. They are currently taking public comments on routing and interchange alternatives for the new corridor, which is scheduled to be built in 8-12 years.

A draft Environmental Impact Statement due out in April,2004 will identify the preferred route for future construction.

The Deer Lake Conservancy has secured support from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for moving the corridor routing away from the lake. "The Conservancy feels that construction of four additional lanes of highway next to the current highway would be an ecological disaster for Deer Lake", stated Cheryl Bursik, a consultant to the Conservancy.

Department of Transportation staff have examined water quality data provided by the Conservancy and have been open to the recommendations for moving the highway.

Rob Ilstrup, president of the Deer Lake Conservancy board of directors, has asked for "everyone concerned about the future of Deer Lake to support the South Realignment and either of the West Interchange options." Ilstrup urged all concerned residents to send their comments to the Department of Transportation on the enclosed form.

The following comparisons identify the impacts of expanding the Existing Alignment versus constructing a new Southern Realignment.

EXISTING ALIGNMENT	SOUTHERN REALIGNMENT
5-6 businesses relocated	no businesses relocated
Deer Lake School moved	
21 homes relocated	5 homes relocated
60 acres of farmland lost	104 acres of farmland lost
significant increase in runoff	existing runoff significantly reduced