



SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN WATERSHEDS TRUST, INC.  
*Sweet Water*

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**Meeting Agenda**  
**Menomonee River Watershed Action Team (WAT)**  
**March 15, 2010**  
**4:00-6:00PM**

University of Wisconsin-Extension  
9501 W. Watertown Plank Road  
Wauwatosa, WI 53226-3552

1. Welcome/Introductions (Co-Chairs)
2. Sweet Water Report-Out – 4:00-4:10
3. Meeting Purpose—Update on Projects
  - a. Stormwater BMPs/GIS Analysis--4:10-4:25 (Arteny)
  - b. Fish passage projects (Menomonee Valley, Low flow barriers, Fish passage assessment)—4:25-4:35 (Cheryl)
  - c. Riparian Projects (Granville Dog Park, Milwaukee County pond and bank stabilization, MRK/MN Falls—4:35-4:50 (Theresa/Cheryl)
  - d. Bacteria updates (monitoring and committee work)—4:50-5:00 (Joe/Cheryl)
  - e. Little Menomonee Updates—5:00-5:15
  - f. Education updates (MN Falls Stormwater Conference, Pet Waste, RRF Take a Hike, Sweet Updates)—5:15-5:30 (Kate, Theresa)
  - g. Other partner project updates—5:30-5:45 (All)
4. Updates on State Budget/Implications for Sweet 5:45-6 (All)
5. Next Steps & Other Issues – Co-Chairs
  - Your ideas on future “off-month” meetings
  - What do you need from Sweetwater to stay engaged?
  - Other issues from the group

# **Menomonee River Watershed Foundation Actions**

## **ADDRESS THREATS TO PUBLIC HEALTH, PARTICULARLY FROM BACTERIA IN THE RIVER**

1. Identify places/access where recreation and body contact with the river are currently occurring.
2. Identify areas where recreation/body contact is suitable or desired. (Access Points)
3. Reduce bacterial contamination in the areas from steps 1 & 2. Reduce bacteria sources by:
  - a. Identifying riparian buffer opportunities, beginning with those on public land. Vegetation buffer strips filter some contaminants out of run-off before it reaches our waterways.
  - b. Managing pet waste. Pet waste is a significant source of fecal coliform bacteria.
  - c. Identifying areas where waterfowl congregate, and discourage through land management and no-mow plantings. Discourage feeding.
  - d. Finding sources of bacterial contamination to rivers, and repairing leaking or incorrectly connected sanitary sewers through science committee and municipal actions.
  - e. Agricultural actions such as control of barnyard runoff.

## **REDUCE LAND-BASED IMPACTS TO THE RIVER**

4. Reduce salt use.
  - a. Identify opportunities for outreach/education to government, businesses and residents.
5. Reduce water quality and quantity impacts from runoff using “green infrastructure”.
  - a. Identify opportunities for green roofs, rain gardens, rain barrels, etc.
  - b. Identify outreach/education opportunities on green infrastructure
  - c. Identify opportunities to reduce parking lot area or convert some to permeable surfaces
6. Reduce nutrient concentrations in the river, with a primary focus on phosphorus. Excess phosphorus fuels algae growth and excessive aquatic plant growth in the river and lake.
  - a. MMSD and municipalities work to reduce combined- and sanitary sewer overflows.
  - b. Municipalities work to reduce sediment runoff and construction site erosion.
  - c. Implementation of statewide ban on phosphorus-containing lawn fertilizers.
  - d. Address concerns associated with industrial cooling water in which phosphorus compounds added to finished drinking water to prevent pipe corrosion is discharged into the rivers as a byproduct of industry.
  - e. Identify riparian buffer opportunities, beginning with those on public land. Buffers help filter nutrients out of run-off before it reaches our waterways.
7. Monitoring and education
  - a. Citizen monitoring programs to monitor river health.
  - b. Storm drain stenciling programs.
  - c. Speakers Bureau (Illicit discharge and construction site erosion detection, Rain Gardens, Stormwater overview, etc.)

## **IMPROVE HABITAT FOR FISH AND OTHER AQUATIC LIFE IN THE RIVER**

8. Identify and remove barriers to fish passage (dams, perched culverts, snags, fill, etc.).
9. Remove concrete channel, generally starting downstream and working upstream.
10. Identify aesthetic improvement opportunities – clean ups, reforestation, etc.
11. Remove invasive species and identify habitat restoration opportunities.
12. Improve Access to enhance citizens’ ability to use and appreciate the River.