RIVERSREPORT

Summer 2011
VOLUME 2 NO 2

Sweet Water Mini-Grant Program To Page 2

Sweet Water Update

Jeff Martinka, Sweet Water

Courtesy of Kate Morgan

Fundraising - Nearly $500K Raised in Last Year

Sweet Water has raised $499,000 since last summer to boost water quality efforts in Southeastern Wisconsin. The total raised includes $65,000 towards Sweet Water's green infrastructure mini-grants, $100,000 for the Menomonee River watershed-based stormwater permit effort, $305,000 for the Root River Watershed Restoration Plan, and $29,000 for a collaborative public education campaign concerning nonpoint source pollution (see page 7).

Major funders of that Sweet Water work include the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5, Fund for Lake Michigan, Wisconsin Coastal Management Program, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. A number of private supporters, including the Wisconsin Energy Foundation and Fresh Water Future, also offered grants. Major operating support of Sweet Water's overall efforts continues to come from the Joyce Foundation.

As a collaborative effort, Sweet Water has often worked on grant applications on behalf of other organizations, like Racine County or MMSD, or participated in joint projects which link together multiple partners. This listing, however, only includes projects whose grant applications were completed by Sweet Water staff.

Latest Milwaukee Areas TMDL Project Plans

As reported in prior RiversReports, MMSD received four Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grants from the EPA to complete third party Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) analyses in the Greater Milwaukee region. TMDLs calculate maximum amounts of particular pollutants that can be received by a river or water body without harming water quality. "TMDL" also refers to the final strategy or plan to reach the pollutant limit calculated. The goal of a TMDL is to outline the fastest path to cleaner water.

The projects will focus on the Kinnickinnic, Menomonee and Milwaukee Rivers and the Milwaukee River Estuary. The Milwaukee River TMDL will focus on the reaches of that river that are included in the State's Impaired Waters List. The pollutants to be examined in this work are pathogens (bacteria), phosphorus, and sediments (total suspended

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Menomonee River Watershed Update

Theresa Morgan, River Revitalization Foundation

Monitoring

The River Alliance of Wisconsin obtained funding to collect phosphorus data at 50 locations in the Menomonee, Kinnickinnic (KK), and Milwaukee River watersheds. Project results will be shared between citizen monitors, the Menomonee and KK River Watershed Action Teams (WAT), and the Milwaukee Estuary Stakeholder Input Group (SIG).

Clustered Green Infrastructure

Work continues to move forward in prioritizing stormwater drainage areas within the KK and Menomonee River watersheds for on-the-ground stormwater management projects. Sweet Water met with the City of Milwaukee's Department of Public Works to review and evaluate the City's stormwater modeling data. The intention of using this data is to identify, in more detail, stormwater outfalls or drainage areas contributing the highest amounts of sediment to our rivers in "hot spot" areas for sediment.

Agriculture Non-Point Source Reduction

In early June, Washington County, Menomonee Falls, and Milwaukee Riverkeeper hosted an initial meeting to identify priority land-owners to contact in the Nor-X-Way channel, the second highest Total Suspended Solids (TSS) loading area in the Menomonee River watershed. Efforts of this group complement outreach work being done by Washington and Ozaukee Counties to educate agricultural landowners about available funding sources to cost-share the implementation of conservation practices. There will be another meeting to brainstorm on funding opportunities that may be more flexible than federal programs and allow more farmers to participate in urban watersheds where financial incentives are often not enough.

Courtesy of Transition Milwaukee

City of Wauwatosa and Milwaukee's rain garden and downspout programs

During May and June of 2011 Transition Milwaukee Water Group (TMW) implemented 275 gallon tote installation and rain-water harvesting projects at community gardens, homes, and a school green house. TMW also held a stormwater educational meeting for residents in Wauwatosa on July 28th to educate residents about impacts of stormwater and what they can

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Mini-Grant Program Expands with New Funding

Kate Morgan, 1000 Friends of Wisconsin

Sweet Water will expand its Water Quality Mini-Grant Program this year with a grant of $25,000 from the Fund for Lake Michigan matched by an additional $25,000 in support from MMSD and the Wisconsin Energy Foundation. This increased funding enables Sweet Water to double the number of projects that will receive funding in the 2011 grant cycle.

The Water Quality Mini-Grant program provides small grants to local, grassroots efforts that address water quality issues using green infrastructure practices, restore aquatic or shoreline habitat and enhance conservation, conserve water for reuse, or for education activities that educate people about water

Mini-Grant to page 7

Dave Ceipluch

What ever happened to the GLRI?

Gail Epping Overholt, UW-Extension

Well, the time for talking is over and now all the walking has begun! Although the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) is more like a marathon:

Submitting your Grant Proposal…

READY…waiting for Congress to pass a budget…

waiting for GLRI Grant Awards…

submitting your Quality Assurance Project Plan (affectionately known as the "QAPP")…

waiting for approval…

SET…re-submitting your QAPP…

waiting…
getting approval…
GO!

Now projects are up and running! However, we all know it takes good planning and behind-the-scenes work before it's apparent that a project is underway.

What's so important to emphasize is that each of these projects will likely allow us to show progress in our collective efforts to eliminate excessive degradation of our waterways and create a blueprint for waterways that sparkle with life and bring vitality to our community.

Here are highlights from two local GLRI-funded projects now underway.

Concrete removal on the Menomonee River in Milwaukee

Tom Chapman, MMSD

Fish from Lake Michigan will soon migrate to neighborhoods much further north on the Menomonee River, opening up new fishing spots on 37 miles of waterways. A concrete removal project in Milwaukee will help make this a reality thanks to a $1.1 million GLRI grant and additional funding and resources from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District. Implementation is expected to begin this fall and be completed next year.

Currently, a steeply pitched concrete channel in the Menomonee River prevents game fish from swimming further north than Wisconsin Avenue in Milwaukee. Removing the concrete and naturalizing the river will allow fish to travel an additional 17 miles north on the Menomonee River to Menomonee Falls and an additional 20 miles on tributaries that feed into the Menomonee River.

Milwaukee River Fish Passage

Matt Aho, Ozaukee County Planning and Parks Department

The Milwaukee River Fish Passage Program and partners will develop and refine an existing Geographic Information Systems (GIS)-based wildlife tool by adding fisheries and aquatic habitat components. This refinement will assist other regional, state, and local planning and conservation initiatives and guide restoration efforts on the landscape, including prioritizing impediment removals and wetland restorations for maximum benefit across a wide range of upland and aquatic species.

Program staff will be presenting at the 2011 National Conference on Ecosystem Restoration, 2011 Coastal Zone Conference, and the 2011 World's Large Rivers Conference in Vienna, Austria.

The Program also welcomes Luke Roffler, Program Assistant, to the "Stream Team." Luke's brings his expertise in fisheries monitoring and research.

Courtesy of Ozaukee County

Menomonee River from page 2

do to help reduce stormwater pollution and the possibility of basement backups and sewer overflows.

Menomonee River Parkway Riparian Restoration

River Revitalization Foundation (RRF) completed a riparian buffer improvement project with the help of Menomonee Falls Boy Scout Troop #110. The project involved removing woody invasives in Doyne Park, along a quarter mile of trail that follows the Menomonee River. The scouts built large habitat cribs, planted 150 native trees and shrubs in the riparian buffer and installed two benches along the trail to improve enjoyment of the park. RRF will also sponsor a ten-person Americorps crew for six weeks this summer. The crew will conduct ecological restoration along the Little Menomonee River and Menomonee River corridor.

Calculate How Much Money you are Throwing Down the Drain

Kevin Masarik, Center for Watershed Science and Education, UW-Stevens Point

A new water cost and savings calculator has been developed for homeowners to calculate how much they spend showering and flushing the toilet. Many people are literally throwing money down the drain by using older less-efficient showerheads or toilets. The calculator, which has been developed by the UW-Stevens Point and UW-Extension's Center for Watershed Science and Education, is designed to help Wisconsin residents who rely on community water systems to see how much they could save through increased water use efficiency.

Some key highlights that you'll see from using the calculator: The more people living under the same roof, the more a household stands to gain. Households with electric hot water heaters will see more savings than someone with a gas hot water heater since heating water with electricity is generally costlier than natural gas. Replacing an inefficient showerhead offers quicker monetary savings than replacing an old toilet because of energy costs associated with hot water. Certain communities will see greater savings than others since water and sewer rates are not uniform across the state. Visit the Center for Watershed Science and Education's website to download the Residential Water Saving Calculator and see how much you could save through improved water use efficiency. http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/

State Budget Brings Policy Changes Affecting Water Quality Work

Ezra Meyer, Clean Wisconsin

The state biennial budget, which was approved by the Legislature and Governor earlier this summer, affects the water quality work of Sweet Water and its partners in some important ways. Two areas of the budget bill were of particular relevance to the work of Sweet Water: changes in the phosphorus effluent rules passed last year, and changes in state stormwater requirements for municipalities.

The Governor's proposed budget, as submitted to the legislature in March, appeared to advocate a one or two-year delay in the implementation of the phosphorus rules. The original rules were the result of a multi-year stakeholder process culminating in DNR and Legislative approval in 2010. Sweet Water and partners, including the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District and nonprofit environmental groups from Milwaukee and Madison, communicated to the Joint Finance Committee a shared concern over the uncertainty such a delay might cause and the threat it posed to the substantial momentum we were seeing on water quality trading and other new and innovative policy tools flowing out of the passage of the new phosphorus rules. Sweet Water also communicated these concerns to the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources, Cathy Stepp. Secretary Stepp heard our concerns and made it clear that she shares our belief that innovative, cost-effective approaches to improving water quality should be encouraged. The Joint Finance Committee decided to eliminate the Governor's proposal to delay the implementation of the phosphorus rules and the Governor left that modification to his original proposal intact. Sweet

Courtesy of UWDC

State Budget to page 11

Set Sail to Become a Clean Marina!

Kae Donlevy, WI Marina Assn. and WI Clean Marina

In July 2008, the UW Sea Grant Institute initiated the Wisconsin Clean Marina (WCM) Program through funding from the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program (WCMP). In spring 2010 the Program's Technical Advisory Team released a WI Clean Marina Guidebook of marina best management practices, clean boater tip sheets and a WI Clean Marina website. This team includes: UW Sea Grant Institute, Wisconsin Marina Association (WMA), WCMP, Indiana Clean Marina Program, EPA, NOAA, WI Department of Natural Resources and seven WI marina owners and operators.

"The Clean Marina Program is designed to inform marine facilities and boaters about environmentally friendly practices that protect Wisconsin's valuable Great Lakes environment, enhance the boating experience, and improve marinas' bottom line", says Victoria Harris, UW Sea Grant water quality specialist. In July 2010, the newly formed WMA received a grant from WCMP to manage the WI Clean Marina program and launch the WI Clean Marina certification process with technical support of UW Sea Grant.

Since last summer, the WI Clean Marina Technical Team has worked diligently to certify 11 marinas as "Clean Marinas."

Clean Marina to page 9

Courtesy of Kae Donlevy

WISCONSIN CLEAN MARINA

WISCONSIN MARINA ASSOCIATION

Visit www.wisconsinmarinas.org

Raising the Roof on Green

Karen L. Sands, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District

To help manage stormwater and its infrastructure, the Commissioners of the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District voted in May to authorize partnership funding for seven new green roofs. To date, MMSD has helped fund 4.3 acres of constructed green roofs in the 28-community region it serves. MMSD currently has 2.6 additional acres of green roofs that are "on deck."

Courtesy of MMSD

MMSD is committed to demonstrating green roofs in this region because of their unique ability to hold stormwater where it falls, keeping it from entering the sewer system. Where there's less stormwater runoff there's less flow to sewers during storms, saving both system capacity and energy for wastewater treatment. Other important benefits of green roofs include extending the life of roofs, reducing the urban heat island effect, providing habitat and better aesthetics, and saving money on heating/cooling costs. As a result of the MMSD Commission's action, green roofs will sprout this year at:

- United Community Center/Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee's Senior Center
- Milwaukee Public Museum
- Impact Seven, Inc's Mitchell Street Market Lofts
- Urban Ecology Center's new branch on Pierce Street
- Wisconsin Regional Training Partnership/BIG STEP
- St. Vincent de Paul Society's Meal Center

The awards were made on a competitive basis and included a commitment from the sponsor to provide long-term maintenance for their green roof.

For more information about the benefits of green roofs in the Greater Milwaukee Watersheds, please see here: http://www.h2ocapture.com/

Learning from the River: Watershed Wisdom

Kate Morgan, 1000 Friends of Wisconsin

Nine canoes rounded the bend of the Milwaukee River just north of North Avenue. For the 20 Shorewood High School students, it was on the last leg of their journey—paddling the Milwaukee River from its headwaters to the harbor. They shot the rapids under North Avenue with strokes strong and sure and then pushed on to the Inner Harbor.

Photos from Watershed Wisdom 2010

Once all the canoes had gathered, they circled up, their bows pointed to the center. They raised their paddles in tribute to the day, the journey, its completion, each other, and the river. This group of students had come to the end of their expedition and the end of a semester-long course at Shorewood High School, Watershed Wisdom.

They laid the foundation for their expedition in the classroom with readings of Aldo Leopold and other environmental writers; wrote about place, the future, environmental problems and solutions; and kept observations about the natural world around their own homes. Then after two prep days at the end of the school year, the expedition began.

They biked 47 miles to Kohler-Andrea State Park; then biked another 25+ miles to the Northern Kettle Moraine State Park. After two days at Mauthe Lake learning canoe basics, they hiked nine miles along the Ice Age Trail to the river.

Over the next six days they paddled roughly 60 miles on the Milwaukee. They camped along its banks; cooked their own meals; sat around the fire reflecting on the challenges the day, the river and weather had brought; laughed at misadventures and relished the camaraderie.

For many in the group, this 11-day trip will become a seminal experience that connects them to rivers and more broadly to nature for the rest of their lives; a connection made by bringing one's self into direct relationship to the environment. These young adults did not have to travel to the Rocky Mountains or the Gulf of Mexico to have a deep experience of nature and community and the inter-connection of the two.

Watershed Wisdom to page 7

"There is presently no way for humans to educate themselves for survival or fulfillment, than through instruction available through the natural world." Thomas Berry.

Sweet Water Update from page 1

solids/TSS). As part of the effort, the projects will also address "beneficial use impairments," or problems identified in the Milwaukee Estuary Area of Concern.

The total budget for the TMDLs is $1.35 million, with $878,698 coming from Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding. The four MMSD projects will be completed concurrently and are expected to be finished by fall 2013.

In May, MMSD selected the engineering firm CDM as its lead consultant on all four TMDLs. CDM has extensive national experience in TMDL work, including efforts on behalf of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources working on the Rock River TMDL. MMSD has also contracted with the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission as technical consultants on the four efforts.

Planning Commission staff will ensure that the TMDLs are consistent with the Water Quality Initiative and with the existing Watershed Restoration Plans for the Kinnickinnic and Menomonee Rivers. Sweet Water and its partners will provide MMSD with stakeholder involvement and public outreach support which is so important to the success of the TMDLs. The Sweet Water efforts are expected to start in August.

Water: A Concert by Present Music

Present Music, Milwaukee's new music ensemble, will perform music inspired by water at a free concert event on Saturday, August 27th, including a world premiere by composer Kamran Ince. The Water concert will bring together Milwaukee's artistic, business, and ecological partners in an event to inspire our community to celebrate Milwaukee's water resources. The event will include a boat parade on the Milwaukee River with water-themed characters produced by Milwaukee Mask & Puppet Theatre. The composer Kamran Ince and Milwaukee water heroes, including Milwaukee Riverkeeper, Sweet Water, Great Lakes Water Institute and Milwaukee Water Council representatives, will be honored. Performers will also include Danceworks, Milwaukee Choral Artists, and the Bel Canto and Cream City choruses.

Courtesy of Present Music

Courtesy of Kate Morgan

Watershed Wisdom from page 6

It was here in their home watershed they learned that they were part of a wider community that encompasses not only their neighborhoods and village but also the life of the river. It was here on the Milwaukee where the words of Aldo Leopold came to life for the students of Watershed Wisdom:

"When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect."

-Aldo Leopold, *A Sand County Almanac*

For more information about Watershed Wisdom, contact Eric Gietzen at egietzen@shorewood.k12.wi.us.

Mini-Grant from page 2

issues and associated stewardship actions.

For the 2011 grant cycle, Sweet Water is requiring that project proposals be sited in the Kinnickinnic or Menomonee Watersheds. Examples of projects that received funding in 2010 include a water collection system for Concordia Neighborhood Gardens, shoreline restoration at Holler Park pond, new equipment for water quality monitoring, and a rain barrel art contest. For a full list of the 2010 awardees, visit Sweet Water's Press Room at swwtwater.org.

The Request for Proposals and the Mini-Grant application are also available on-line at www.swwtwater.org. Budgets for proposals range from $1,000 - $4,000. Applications are due September 15th. Non-profit organizations, community and civic groups, and schools are encouraged to apply. For more information about the project, call Jeff Martinka at 414-477-1156 or email martinka@swwtwater.org.

Creative Juices are Flowing at Sweet Water

Work has begun on the development of an outreach campaign to raise awareness and promote actions that will protect our rivers and Lake Michigan. The campaign follows survey findings that indicated gaps in the basic understanding of our residents concerning water and the issues facing our water resources.

Several firms responded to a request for qualifications followed by a request for proposals. Through this process, Staples Marketing was selected by Sweet Water's Communication Committee to develop the campaign. The campaign is funded through support from Wisconsin Coastal Management Program, WI DNR, Menomonee Watershed municipalities, Fresh Water Future, and the Joyce Foundation. Launch of the campaign is targeted for August. Watch for updates about the campaign at our website and e-newsletter, the Watershed Watch.

Introducing Sweet Water's E-newsletter – Watershed Watch

This June, Sweet Water introduced a new monthly e-newsletter, the Watershed Watch. Watershed Watch will keep you updated on Sweet Water news and events including the announcements for WAT meetings. We'll also use our e-news service, Mail Chimp, for special announcements. If you'd like to receive Watershed Watch, visit Sweet Water's webpage at www.swwtwater.org. On the right sidebar you'll find a place to subscribe to the mailing list.

Urban Agriculture: A Solution to Storm Water Runoff

Gretchen Mead, Victory Garden Initiative

Milwaukee has a runoff problem. Urban soils are highly compacted and impervious surfaces cover much of the urban environment. Stormwater has no place to go except directly into the sewer system, causing the Deep Tunnel to overflow during significant rain events and release raw sewage into Lake Michigan.

Meanwhile, the economy is tanking. Food prices are skyrocketing. Urban lots are undeveloped. High quality produce is hard to come by in Milwaukee's poorest neighborhoods. We haul organic material from all over the city to landfills. "How are these things related," you ask? Urban agriculture.

Urban agriculture is a growing industry within the city of Milwaukee. Though I have no illusions that urban agriculture is the sole solution to these complex issues, it surely sits at the crossroads of solutions to them all.

Milwaukee abounds with empty city lots and residential lawns plagued with hard compacted soil that contributes to storm water runoff. Each of these lots could be designed to harvest and absorb rainwater. During rain events, high quality soil on urban lots behaves like a sponge, soaking up rainwater and holding it in place. Rain harvesting cisterns can store runoff from roofs that can later be used to water food-producing plants. Compostable materials like lawn waste and vegetable scraps, can be used to create high quality soil, in the same place that it is created. Waste, turned to soil, growing food, harvesting rainwater, all in one place. This is a simple solution to a complex problem.

Urban Agriculture to page 11

Volunteer Spotlight:

Mayra Romo from the 15th Street Neighborhood Stormwater Project

Courtesy of Groundwork Milwaukee

Clean rivers and lakes should be a priority for everyone. Public services such as clean drinking water, an abundant resource in Milwaukee, are privileges that most communities around the world do not have. That is well known by environmentalists who grow up in Latin America and other developing countries where public agendas are flooded with unresolved cases of social, political and economic problems, to name just a few. Clean water is a resource and needs to be cared for. The Kinnickinnic River has wonderful residents that are doing just that.

On South 15th Street, there are dedicated residents who want to help reduce the amount of runoff pollution that washes into the river by installing rain gardens, swale gardens (between the street and the sidewalk) and rain barrels. The community acceptance and success of this project is in great part thanks to Mayra Romo, one of South 15th Street's residents.

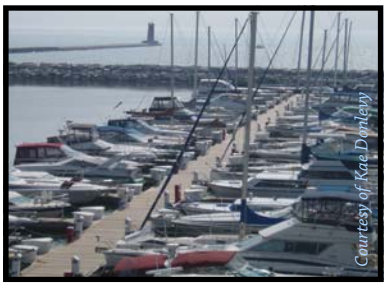
Mayra has been a Milwaukee resident for about ten years and has lived in the same property since then. Mayra was very important in the development of the *Residential Stormwater Project* on her block. Her's was the first neighborhood property on which best management practices were installed.

Mayra grew up in Guadalajara, Mexico, where she mentored youth groups, healed stray dogs and found them permanent homes, and led community environmental activities. Mayra strongly believes that human health and environmental health are interconnected: "Everyone needs clean air to breathe, clean water to drink, and clean soil to grow healthy food. Anywhere in the world, it's the same need. If we treat our environment with more respect, including our rivers and lakes, our water will be cleaner and our people will be healthier. It's very simple, but there's no shortcut to restoring years of damage to the river, so every resident should contribute to the solution. Like a good 'epidemic': get started with a rain garden and a rain barrel, and of course, recycle, and don't litter the neighborhood!"

The 15th Street Neighborhood Stormwater Project is lead in partnership by Sixteenth Street Community Health Center, Groundwork Milwaukee and Milwaukee Riverkeeper and funded by the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program and the Southeastern Wisconsin Watersheds Trust. For more information contact Andrea Fuentes at 414-810-9407.

Clean Marina from page 5

Sheboygan Harbor Centre


Courtesy of Kae Donlevy

These marinas will voluntarily adopt and maintain environmentally-sound practices.

These marinas include:

- Gaslight Pointe Marina (Racine)
- Lakeshore Towers (Racine)
- Manitowoc Marina
- Nestegg Marine (Marinette)
- Port Washington Marina
- Racine Yacht Club
- Skipper Bud's: Harbor Centre Marina (Sheboygan), Harbor Club and Quarterdeck Marinas (Sturgeon Bay) and Reefpoint Marina (Racine)
- The Abbey Marina (Fontana)

The commitment by marina operators to Wisconsin's Great Lakes and waterways, with support of the partners of the Wisconsin Clean Marina Program will improve our quality of life and this recreational resource while helping with the recovery of Wisconsin's economy.

Courtesy of Kae Donlevy

Port Washington Marina

Get The Meds Out Program

Melissa Boehm, UW-Extension

The University of Wisconsin-Extension is launching a new pharmaceutical mail-back program for 36 Wisconsin counties. This program, called "Get the Meds Out," is funded through a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency grant. The program provides free envelopes and display materials to any qualifying pharmacy, senior center, or county health department. Wisconsin residents can request an envelope from a participating location, fill it with their unwanted medications, and drop it in a regular mailbox. The envelopes are mailed to the Maine Drug Enforcement Agency where they are sorted and sent for safe destruction. The goals of this program are to address the rising level of prescription drug abuse in Wisconsin and to reduce the environmental impact of pharmaceuticals in the Great Lakes. The 36 counties that were chosen all drain into the Great Lakes Basin. We also hope to raise public awareness about the importance of safe drug disposal, while providing a convenient and simple solution.

"Get the Meds Out" began in July of this year and runs until September 30th, 2012.

Contact Information:
Melissa Boehm
Pharmaceutical Waste
Project Coordinator

T: 414-227-3344

Email:

melissa.boehm@ces.uwex.edu

Website:
http://fyi.uwex.edu/pharma/get-the-meds-out-program/

State Budget from page 4

Water partners will continue working toward implementation of water quality trading and the other innovative tools created by the passage of the phosphorus rules.

The Governor's budget also proposed to eliminate a key part of the requirements for municipalities that need state permits for their stormwater runoff discharges into public waters. The requirement that municipalities reduce total suspended solids (TSS) discharges from a pre-development baseline by 40% by 2013 was to be eliminated, meaning that the previous requirement to which municipalities were held, a 20% reduction in TSS, would remain along with other requirements, including that municipalities carry out educational programs on stormwater and test for and eliminate any illicit discharges into their stormwater systems. TSS represents a category of urban pollutants carried by stormwater runoff including sediment, heavy metals, nutrients, and a host of other pollutants.

This change prevailed in the Legislature's proposed budget and the final version signed by the Governor. Supported by many municipalities for the mandate relief it brings them in these tough economic times, there is concern that this change is likely to reduce municipal investments in cutting stormwater runoff. It may diminish incentives for municipalities to work with Sweet Water as partners on those efforts.

Courtesy of Peter Sigmann

Sweet Water will work diligently to find ways to add value to municipal stormwater work across the region and create opportunities for collaboration.

In a tough time for state and local government budgets, water quality work did not remain unscathed, but the promise of the Sweet Water model, based on the premises of collaboration toward mutual goals and a cost effectiveness filter on all that we do, remains.
The hard work of moving Southeastern Wisconsin toward swimmable, fishable waters continues apace. Stay tuned this fall for further policy updates from Sweet Water on relevant issues.

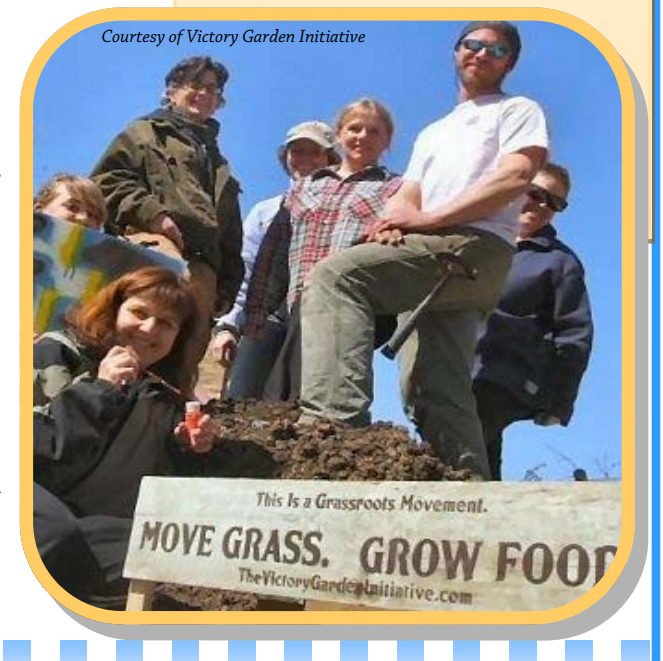
Information on the Sweet Water Policy Committee and its upcoming meetings can always be found at www.swwtwater.org.

Urban Agriculture from page 8

The good news: our municipal leaders recognize this. The City of Milwaukee is partnered with Victory Garden Initiative, Milwaukee Urban Gardens, Engineers Without Borders and many more environmental and urban agriculture groups to create rain-harvesting projects throughout the city on empty lots.

Urban agriculture offers a unique opportunity to bring together many organizations and people in Milwaukee who are working a wide array of social and environmental issues. It is leading the way for the most progressive methods of storm water management in the country.

For more information or to get involved go to www.VictoryGardenInitiative.org or contact Gretchen.mead@VictoryGardenInitiative.org



Courtesy of Victory Garden Initiative

Upcoming Events

- September 19-20, **Water Summit V, Achieving Harmony with Water Conference,** *Milwaukee*
  Visit: http://www.thewatercouncil.com/ (Information at right)
- October 3-5, **Urban Water Sustainability Leadership Conference,** *Milwaukee*
  Visit: http://www.cleanwateramericaalliance.org/events_uwslc.php
- October 13-14, **2011 Annual Meeting of the U.S. Great Lakes Area of Concern: Celebrating Progress; Confronting Challenges; Moving Forward!** *Detroit, Michigan*
  Visit: http://www.glc.org/rap/aocconference11.html
- October 13-16, **Rally 2011: The National Land Conservation Conference**, *Milwaukee*
  Visit: http://www.landtrustalliance.org/training/rally
- November 3-4, **Wisconsin's Areas of Concern Meeting,** *Green Bay*
  Visit: http://fyi.uwex.edu/aocs/ (Information below)

Wisconsin's Areas of Concern Meeting

Save the Dates!

Join us for a two-day conference about Wisconsin's Areas of Concern (AOC). Staff working on clean-up and remediation projects, stakeholders serving on advisory committees and AOCs outreach educators will be meeting to share information across Wisconsin's AOCs in Lake Michigan and Superior.

November 3 & 4 Green Bay

This two-day event will feature concurrent sessions ranging from tracking and measuring success, what makes a good Stage 2 RAP, education campaign ideas, fish tumor studies, contaminated sediments 101 and other topics relevant to cleaning up Area of Concern to reach Wisconsin's established targets.

Great Lakes Areas of Concern in Wisconsin include: Milwaukee River Estuary, Sheboygan River, Lower Green Bay & Fox River, Menominee River and the St. Louis River.

Updates will be posted at http://fyi.uwex.edu/aocs/ as details are confirmed. For more information contact Ruth Oppedahl, University of Wisconsin Extension, 715-685-2676 or email ruth.oppedahl@ces.uwex.edu.

Water Summit V
"Achieving Harmony with Water"
Discovery World
September 19 – 20, 2011

Sweet Water produced the Urban Watersheds track of the Milwaukee Water Council's Water Summit V, planned for September 19th and 20th at Discovery World Museum. The Urban Watersheds track presenters include Steve Apfelbaum of Applied Ecological Services, Gary Belan of American Rivers, Lisa Downes of the Alliance for Water Stewardship, Molly Flanagan of the Joyce Foundation, G. Tracy Mehan III of the Cadmus Group, Toon Segeren of Detares, and James Wasley of UWM School of Architecture. For Water Summit V updates, visit www.thewatercouncil.com.

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Great Lakes RESTORATION

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