

**Lake George/Kinnickinnic River Project
City of River Falls, MN
Stakeholders Advisory Group Meeting #4
Thursday, December 16, 2004**

-Meeting Summary-

Meeting Attendees:

Meeting attendees included members of the Technical Advisory Committee, the Stakeholder Committee, and interested citizens. See attached list

Summary of Major Points:

The meeting opened with a review of the recent project meeting progression to date by Rich Brasch of Bonestroo and Associates with the help of other members of the Technical Advisory Committee. Main points were as follows:

- Stakeholder Meeting #2 was held in October 2004. The meeting was largely dedicated to looking at the opportunities for, and the benefits and costs of, applying various watershed management measures in the study area to reduce TSS and thermal loads to the River. At that meeting, the Stakeholders group also reviewed a qualitative comparison of several alternatives for re-configuring Lake George and requested that the Technical Advisory Committee come up with 1-2 alternatives to evaluate in more detail.
- Stakeholder Meeting #3 held on December 2, 2004. This meeting focused on presenting one Lake George re-configuration alternative developed by the Technical Advisory Group, which combined many of the features of the alternatives discussed at the October meeting. The estimated thermal and TSS benefits to the River were presented as were estimated cost ranges for the Lake re-configuration and updated costs for the interceptor pipe system east of the River. Thermal modeling results were presented that showed virtually all of the thermal benefits of watershed management measures were lost at the assessment point below the Lake George dam if Lake George remains in its current configuration. At the conclusion of this meeting, the Stakeholders group was reasonably comfortable with the Lake George re-configuration concept plan presented and believed that the group could move on to the final stage of this phase of the project.

The purpose of this meeting (Stakeholder meeting #4) was to come up with the best way to combine the watershed management and Lake re-configuration elements into an overall strategy.

Rich Brasch presented information that related monitored temperature data at various points in the River for both baseflow and runoff event conditions to temperature tolerance information for brown trout and macroinvertebrates. The information was intended to illustrate how actual temperatures in the River were approaching some important tolerance thresholds for key aquatic organisms in the River, especially for the

macroinvertebrate populations which help sustain the trout. Rich followed with a brief explanation of several schematic drawings of the Lake re-configuration alternative endorsed at the previous stakeholder meeting.

Subsequently, the Stakeholders group was asked to provide guidance on an overall strategy for the River in view of the information presented to date. Following is a summary of the results of that discussion:

- There was consensus that a multi-pronged approach involving strategic execution of both end-of the pipe and small scale/small site watershed management actions as well as re-configuration of Lake George and a phased construction of interceptor pipes along the east side of the River was the best strategy to follow.
- A suggested strategy agreeable to the Stakeholders group should include the following elements (not in any particular order):
 - Re-configuration of Lake George into a multi-cell system that is separated from the River during baseflow and small to moderate runoff events
 - Construction of the east interceptor (which includes capture of the runoff from Econo Foods) as well as the first phase of the north interceptor up to Walnut Street.
 - Extension of the north interceptor as opportunities arise, such as during downtown re-development projects or road/alley re-construction.
 - Construction of one or more “end-of-pipe” projects designed to infiltrate runoff on existing City-owned land, such as in Heritage Park on the west side of the River.
 - Concentrating on one to several storm drainage sewersheds to work with private property owners to find suitable sites for, and install, small scale stormwater treatment features such as rainwater gardens. It was suggested that these efforts could focus on parts of the study area where diversion of runoff to a re-configured Lake George for treatment is not feasible and end-of-the-pipe treatment strategies may not be practical.
 - Development and execution of a public education program aimed at building understanding of, and support for, the overall management strategy and its various components among the general public as well as the business community.
- It was recognized that the technical analysis shows that without a separation of Lake George from the River, the thermal benefits of watershed management actions as measured below the Lake George dam will be negated.
- It was also recognized that watershed management measures should emphasize infiltrating surface runoff and that this is likely to have some as yet unquantifiable benefit in improving cool baseflow to the River.
- In review and discussion of the conceptual plan for re-configuration of Lake George as part of an overall management strategy to protect and enhance the River, the Group recognized that:

- It is important to create a space that will be valued by the community apart from its benefit to the River. Thus, the area should be designed to be as aesthetically pleasing as reasonably possible considering its use to treat stormwater runoff from the downtown areas and should provide trail features and connections.
- One member observed that the changes in the Lake that are being proposed (i.e. dramatically reducing its surface area and isolating it from the River) will significantly change the look of this area in a way which may not be welcomed by some in the community, and that this perception issue will need to be carefully worked through.
- The issues associated with securing regulatory approval for re-configuring the Lake have yet to be resolved, but the outcome of the technical analysis on the benefits of the re-configuration for the River has increased the motivation to work through those issues.
- There are still important actions that need to be undertaken before the concept for re-configuration can be finalized and design completed. The main issues are:
 - collecting reliable bathymetric information on the existing Lake,
 - locating spring discharges, and
 - more detailed assessment of the engineering properties of the sediment within the Lake
 - beginning the process of securing regulatory permits
 - identifying possible funding sources for implementationThese issues should be addressed in future phases of this project.

(Meeting Summary prepared by Rich Brasch, Bonestroo and Associates on December 27, 2004, modified on January 4, 2005)

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<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Don Richards	Mayor, City of River Falls
Hal Watson	River Falls City Council
Mike Keenan	River Falls Planning Commission and Park Board
Harris Kittelson	River Falls Planning Commission
Karen Voss	WI Department of Natural Resources
Ken Schreiber	WI Department of Natural Resources
Jim Devlin	WI Department of Natural Resources
Kent Johnson	Trout Unlimited
Rick McMonagle	Kinnickinnic River Land Trust
Mark Freeborn	River Falls Municipal Utility
Kerry Keen	UW-River Falls
Aloha Hovde	Citizen
Stan Meyer	Former River Falls Park and Recreation Commission Board member
Reid Wronski	City of River Falls Engineering
Tony Steiner	City of River Falls Planning
Rich Brasch	Bonestroo and Associates