

February 2023 Quarterly Report
Farmer-Led Watershed Council Coordinator
Tara Daun
Hired on 5/17/21 @ .9 FTE
Reported on 5/19/23

Council Activities:

- Council Meetings – after March, our council meeting activity goes down as farmers are prepping and going into the fields.
 - Hay River: Held council meeting in March
 - Hosted incentive signup meeting
 - Planning on summer events around livestock and small grains
 - Dry Run: Held a council meeting in March
 - Planned a spring buffer event for June
 - If summer applications are low, looking to do a starter program for first-timers
 - Horse Creek: Held a virtual meeting in April
 - Reviewed soil health event in March – over 60 attendees
 - Planning an event around nitrogen stabilizers for early June
 - Planning more infiltration analysis on test plot with Dennis Busch
 - South Kinni: Held a council meeting in April
 - Planning events at the test plot like last year
 - Going to do an August field day at a plot comparing N rates and biologicals at another farm
 - Discussing on how to count membership and who is involved with the council.
 - Chippewa: this group is newly forming and tied closely with Farmers Union, after discussion with partners, I am doing a bit more support of this group at least for the first year, to help them get more farmers on board and get their feet under them.
 - They held a meeting in May to plan their summer field events.
- Hosted Events
 - South Kinni Annual Meeting – presentation on St. Croix groundwater and nitrogen from Tim Stieber which was very well received. Presented winner of the Soiled Undies contest. 28 attendees (3/9/23)
 - Horse Creek Winter Education event – Had farmer speaker from MN talk about where he sees the future of regenerative agriculture along with Dennis Busch and colleague to talk more about the soil health test results. 62 attendees (3/23/23)

Outreach Activities

- Presentations to other groups
 - Presented on FLWCs at a CAFO workshop in Menomonie to audience of 65 (2/24/23)
 - Red Cedar Conference – presented on FLWCs goals to a breakout session with roughly 100 (?) in audience. (3/9/23)
 - Lakes & Rivers Conference – spoke in a pre-event workshop as well as a breakout session over 2 days. 24 in audience on day 1, 67 in audience on day 2. (4/19 & 4/20)

- River Falls Ag Day – presented on soil health and Soil Your Undies to students and ag partners at event (4/17/23)
- River Falls Earth Fest (4/22/23) – presented Soil Your Undies to community members, over 2000 attended this event.
- Presented to River Falls High School Ag class – 16 students learned about soil health, FLWCs and how we work with all parts of the ag sector to protect waters. (5/16/23)
- Partnership building
 - Met with an informal group of agronomists, salesmen, and consultants who are interested in pushing forward regenerative agriculture in our region – continuing to build connections with these professionals who touch a lot of farmers.
 - Reaching out more to FFA groups, especially River Falls, to enhance the connection to soil health there.
- Virtual outreach has continued with continued updates to the website, quarterly e-newsletter and facebook.
 - Newsletter has 368 subscribers.
 - Spring newsletter went out in April with a 50% open rates.
 - Next newsletter will come out in June.
 - Website had 768 views in Feb, Mar, & April
 - Facebook presence is maintained, followers up to 428
 - We continue to get good feedback from the farmers on our Facebook page
 - 1855 impressions in the last 90 days (down significantly from the last quarter, which is not too surprising since the farmers didn't host much for events in April).

Plans for Spring/Summer

Beyond continuing with the work listed above, I am working on the following projects that I hope will occur within the next 6 months.

- Soiled Undies
 - All 4 councils have farmers who will participate again this year.
 - We will be planting the underwear in late May & early June and harvesting in late July & early August
- Hosted Events
 - July event in Hay River focused on livestock and forage and/or small grains
 - Buffer event on 6/20 in Dry Run
 - Nitrogen Stabilization event 6/1 Horse Creek
 - Pop up field event in South Kinni on emergence at the test plot
 - 6/23 Farm to Lake event in Chippewa