Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources SWIMS Project Summary

General Project Information

Project ID: CBSM-10012523

Name: North Branch Milwaukee River at HWY M

Type: Citizen Based Stream Monitoring

Subtype: Volunteer Monitoring

Status: INACTIVE

Start Date: 4/15/2006

End Date: 12/31/2099

Purpose: The Water Action Volunteers Program (WAV) involves citizen monitors in the collection of stream water quality data that may

be used by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and their partner organizations. Program goals include building relationships between DNR staff and citizen monitors while assessing streams in need of additional monitoring, restoration, and/or protection. Ultimately, volunteer participation increases capabilities of the DNR and communities to monitor streams, providing water quality information that may be used to make decisions that affect the management of

streams throughout Wisconsin.

Objective: The main goal of the WAV program is to preserve and protect Wisconsin's streams and the lakes to which they are

connected. Objectives of the program are to educate and empower citizens to share their data, to obtain high quality data useful for DNR decision-making, and to encourage data and knowledge sharing. The process of data collection by Wisconsin residents enhances their understanding of water quality parameters, and in many cases, interests them in assisting with more sophisticated projects, including the collection of additional biological, chemical, and physical site data. Ultimately, a goal is

that DNR staff trust volunteer data results, and therefore utilize WAV data to assist in making management decisions.

Comments: Oakton 300 DO/pH meter used in place of YSI 550a and Oakton Acorn 5 meters.

Outcome:

Study Design: Volunteer stream monitors assess water quality parameters identified in the DNR's Water Resources Monitoring Strategy for

Wisconsin. Volunteers may identify their own sampling locations. In some instances, WAV Coordinators, DNR, or county staff may recommend sites based on the need to acquire status or trends information, or other types of monitoring that are priorities. In general, volunteers are asked to monitor from May through October. Advanced volunteers choose primary (P) and secondary (S) sampling dates in advance and note on their data sheets which of those dates they monitored. Volunteers are asked to sample on the primary date unless there are safety concerns about being at the stream site (e.g., tornado, lightning, dangerously high flows) or a personal or family emergency. The goal is to monitor at the same time each month, about 30 days after the last monitoring visit. Volunteers are instructed to enter data into the Surface Water Integrated Monitoring System (SWIMS) database by the end of each month and to immediately report extreme conditions that may be hazardous to aquatic life to their local DNR or County biologist. Parameters measured monthly include: dissolved oxygen (concentration), dissolved oxygen (saturation), streamflow, transparency, temperature (instantaneous and/or continuous measurements), and sometimes pH. In addition, macroinvertebrates (Biotic Index) are assessed twice per year and habitat conditions are assessed once per year. Some volunteers monitor specific conductance, chloride, total phosphorus, E. coli, or

other parameters.

QA Measures: For advanced volunteers, a WAV staff person, local coordinator or authorized representative visits with 10% of volunteers annually to conduct side-by-side monitoring. The goal of field QA checks is to check that volunteers are properly calibrating

annually to conduct side-by-side monitoring. The goal of field QA checks is to check that volunteers are properly calibrating their meters (if used) and following the sampling methods correctly. Staff members conducting QA checks also ensure that equipment is functioning properly and answer any volunteer questions or concerns. A Data Manager runs regular (monthly whenever possible) database queries throughout the field season to evaluate the quality of data entered into the database

and follow-up with volunteers to address anomalies that are identified.

People						
Name	Role	Status	Start Date	End Date	Organization	Comments
Barth, Eva	TEAM_MEMBER	ACTIVE	6/2/2022			
DRISCOLL, ZACHERY G	COORDINATOR	ACTIVE	5/9/2016		Wisconsin DNR	
DRISCOLL, ZACHERY G	PROJECT_LEA D	ACTIVE	5/2/2016		Wisconsin DNR	

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Holleback, Mary	TEAM_MEMBER	INACTIVE	4/15/2006	2/13/2015	River Edge Nature Center
Lukasz, Brad	TEAM_MEMBER	INACTIVE	2/16/2015	5/1/2017	Milwaukee Riverkeeper
Nenn, Cheryl	PROJECT_LEA D	ACTIVE	11/28/2008		Milwaukee Riverkeeper
Rademacher, Katie	COORDINATOR	ACTIVE	12/6/2018		Milwaukee Riverkeeper
Rath, Joe	COORDINATOR	INACTIVE	6/7/2015	5/9/2017	Milwaukee Riverkeeper
Rath, Joe	PROJECT_LEA D	INACTIVE	6/7/2010	2/13/2015	Milwaukee Riverkeeper
Schroeder, Jason	TEAM_MEMBER	INACTIVE	11/24/2008	2/12/2015	Milwaukee Riverkeeper
White, Marc	TEAM_MEMBER	INACTIVE	4/15/2006	2/13/2015	River Edge Nature Center

Project Statuses

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Actions						
Action	Detailed Description	Start Date	End Date	Status		
Citizen-Based Stream Monitoring	Collect chemical, physical, and/or biological water quality data to assess the current overall stream health. The data can inform management decisions and may be used to identify impaired waters for biennial lists.	1/1/2012		IN_PROGRESS		

Monitoring Stations

Station ID	Name	Comments
10012523	North Branch Milwaukee River At Hwy M	

Assessment Units

WBIC	Segment	Local Name	Official Name		
27100	1	Milwaukee River North Branch	North Branch Milwaukee River		

Lab Account Codes

Account Code	Description	Start Date	End Date

Forms

Form Code	Form Name
WAV_2015	WAV Stream Monitoring 2015

Methods

Method Code	Method Description
CBSM_PP_FIELD_METHODS	CBSM Stream Monitoring YSI DO Meter 2009

Fieldwork Events

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Start Date	Status	Field ID	Station ID	Station Name
5/17/2006 14:30	COMPLETE		10012523	North Branch Milwaukee River At Hwy M
5/18/2006	COMPLETE	ONSET-17368362	10012523	North Branch Milwaukee River At Hwy M
6/14/2006 14:35	COMPLETE		10012523	North Branch Milwaukee River At Hwy M
7/13/2006 11:25	COMPLETE		10012523	North Branch Milwaukee River At Hwy M
8/9/2006 12:50	COMPLETE		10012523	North Branch Milwaukee River At Hwy M
9/13/2006 14:15	COMPLETE		10012523	North Branch Milwaukee River At Hwy M
6/26/2007	COMPLETE	TIDBIT	10012523	North Branch Milwaukee River At Hwy M
6/26/2007 13:45	COMPLETE		10012523	North Branch Milwaukee River At Hwy M
7/30/2007 13:10	COMPLETE		10012523	North Branch Milwaukee River At Hwy M
10/29/2007 13:00	COMPLETE		10012523	North Branch Milwaukee River At Hwy M

Documents

Title Description Author Published Comments

Budget

Combined Budgets: Combined WSLH:

Combined Total: \$0.00

Funding					
Organization	Source	Туре	Amount	Start Date	End Date