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FROM: Laura Bub

SUBJECT: 9/13/04 WCR Field Session summary

On Monday September 13, 2004, I attended a field session featuring several sites in the La Crosse area. Regional staff participating in the session were: Dan Helsel, Paul LaLiberte, Cindy Koperski, Mark Hazuga, Ken Schreiber, Pat Oldenburg, Judy Hayducsko, and Charlie Cameron. Over the course of the day, we visited three different sites. The following narrative summarizes some observations from each of the sites.

Maple Grove Country Club

The country club and adjacent property (including residential subdivision) have their own treatment facility. Adjacent to the country club property is a wetland area (degraded) and then Pleasant Valley Creek beyond the wetland. Not far beyond the creek is Interstate 90.

Paul LaLiberte originally classified the stream in 1988, prior to the construction of the treatment facility. At that time, Paul recommended that the treatment be directed to Pleasant Valley Creek via a pipe directly to the flowing water. This was done in an effort to protect the wetland area from degradation. When Paul checked back at the facility in 1994, he realized that rather than pipe effluent to the stream, the treatment plant dug a ditch through the wetland, and discharged their effluent to the ditch. At this point in time, the damage to the site had already been done.

Pleasant Valley Creek appeared to be somewhat prohibited by wetland grasses/plants. Biologists guessed that some of the hydrologic modifications to the site could be due to a change in beaver activity.

Maple Grove Country Club is currently not listed in NR 104, and is therefore considered to have the default classification of Fish and Aquatic Life (WWSF). This site is proposed to be classified as LFF when NR 104 is revised.

Rockland WWTP

This site is an existing discharger that discharges to a wetland tributary to the La Crosse River. The interesting aspect of this site was the splitter box that had been installed. This box effectively split the effluent discharge leaving the plant, and routed it to two separate locations in/near the wetland in order to minimize channelization within the wetland. The splitter box appeared to serve its purpose, as it was very difficult to even determine where one of the discharge points was located at (the original of the two discharge points was more easily found).

Currently this site is listed in NR104 as LAL, and has been recommended for an LFF designation at such time that NR104 is revised.

Warrens WWTP

Warrens WWTP is currently discharging to groundwater. They are looking at alternatives for a surface water discharge, and are currently exploring several different options. The options included:



- Small tributary. Did not have water first time it was visited, but had water at this visit. Previous fish shocking revealed the presence of Sunfish (?)
- Large wetland/open water area. Adjacent to Cranberry bogs. Water is deep and obviously fish and aquatic life
- Tributary flowing through wooded area. Shocked several times and no fish. Appears as though the stream has a lot of iron present. Biologists guessed that this might be causing the lack of fish. Guessed that the stream would probably be LAL, due to (?) naturally occurring iron. An LAL class'n would potentially be less desirable to a discharger b/c lower NH₄ limits would be possible, however effluent limit calculators have said that, depending on decay distance, it could be possible that NH₄ limits might not actually be any less restrictive. It was also recommended that biologists try and determine the amount of Iron actually in water. It was also recommended that biologists verify pH, as well as decay distance.
- Wetland immediately adjacent to WWTP. This is a nice wooded wetland area that is not degraded. Dischargers have been told that that site can only be used if it is determined that the rest of the sites are not "practicable." Previous discussions with dischargers have indicated that this may be an attractive discharge option, due to its proximity to the treatment plant.