

RP-325-13 Grant Report Narrative

June 15, 2016

I. Background



The Namekagon River Partnership (NRP) organization was “born” in June 2011, appropriately on an upper Namekagon River kayak paddle hosted by the National Park Service as an orientation for their staff. Several lucky civilians were invited to join the paddle and the absence of a Namekagon River/Watershed organization was discussed. It was decided to form an ad hoc advisory (steering) group to look at the feasibility and worthwhile

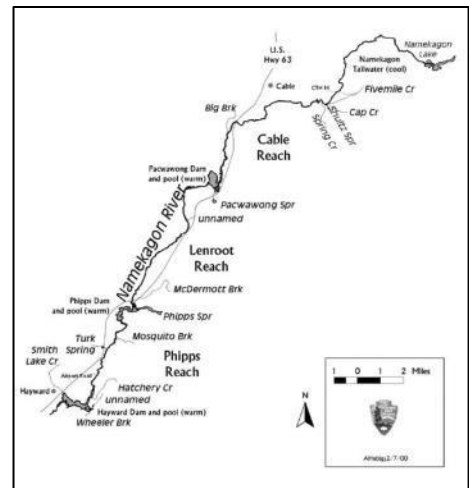
ness of creating a new organization. This group would discuss the name and purpose of the proposed organization, represent potential stakeholders (partners), identify prospective funders and board members, and provide the necessary technical and start-up expertise. This group continued meeting after a Board of Directors were approved, and acted as advisors to the Board members.



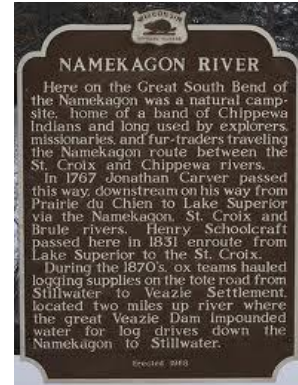
Note: an overview of the advisory/steering group task timeline is shown in Appendix 2.

The advisory group made a number of observations and assumptions in the summer of 2011:

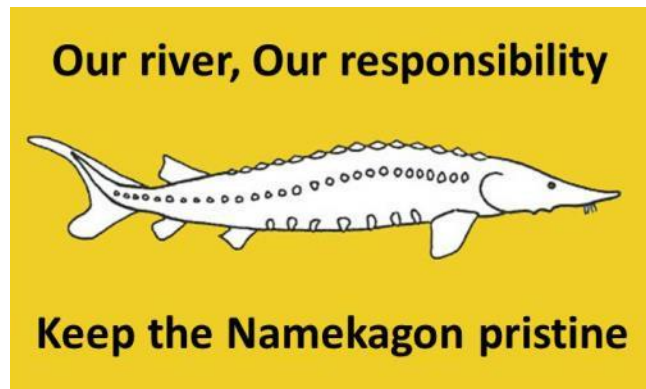
- Existing Namekagon River/Watershed stakeholders could be readily identified.
- Federal and state agency, and tribal stakeholders had sustainable relationships, effectively communicated with each other, and welcomed new partnerships with non-profit conservation organizations.
- The existing draft fisheries management plan for the Namekagon and Upper St. Croix Rivers would be finalized and implemented..
- Limited water quality and surface and ground water hydrology data existed for the Namekagon Watershed.
- The existing cold-water fishery in the tributaries of the upper Namekagon River was a key natural resource and the fishery goals of stakeholders were congruent.



- There was little public awareness of the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway (which included the Namekagon River).
- The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) would fund a river planning grant once organizational prerequisites were completed.
- NRP could have a voice in solving challenges facing the main stem of the Namekagon River.
- The Hayward-Cable area included many activist volunteers.
- Trout fishermen and other active river users would be a natural constituency for NRP.



- Namekagon River sections from Springbrook Landing to Trego and County K Landing to McDowell Bridge Landing have tubing traffic at or over river capacity on summer weekends. These sections are no longer “family or fisherman friendly” during these time periods. Example documentation is an article in the September 2007 issue of “Outdoor News,” titled “Are tubers becoming drain on Namekagon?”



Based on these observations, the group’s conclusion was that the creation of a new non-profit river/watershed organization that focused on the Namekagon was a worthy and achievable idea.

Progress was made during the period after a river planning grant was contemplated but before the actual RP-325-13 grant start date (7-1-2012) on a number of organizational and communication fronts:

- Advisory/Steering group meetings:
 - August 8, 2011 (Cable) was the initial planning meeting for the “Namekagon River Group.” Participants included representatives from the DNR, National Park Service, Trout Unlimited, River Alliance of Wisconsin, Hayward Fly Fishing Company, Bayfield Regional Conservancy, and Friends of the St. Croix Headwaters. It was decided that a “Namekagon River Group” was needed, potential river stakeholders were discussed, ways to engage the public were discussed, an interim web/blog site was announced, and follow-up steps were agreed upon.
 - November 21, 2011 (Seeley) to discuss financial status, reaffirm organizational name and address, reaffirm interim board membership, draft statement of goals and objectives, and approve



- application for Wisconsin Nonstock Corporation (Chapter 181).
- January 17, 2012 (Seeley) to discuss brochure plans, to plan for a February 9th public meeting, and to discuss organizational mission and goals. NRP is “a citizen-based group that supports and promotes educational opportunity, scientific study, and stewardship of the Namekagon River and its natural resources for the benefit of partners, the general public, and future generations.”
 - February 14, 2012 (Seeley) to finalize a brochure, to discuss the St. Croix Basin Heritage Initiative, to review the February 9th public meeting, and to discuss goals and objectives
 - March 6, 2012 (Seeley) to discuss a summary of a survey conducted at the February 9th public meeting and a draft of mission and objectives statements. The mission is “NRP is dedicated to supporting, promoting, and providing activities that enhance stewardship, awareness, and enjoyment of the Namekagon River, and its watershed.”
 - April 3, 2012 (Seeley) to plan for April 28th river cleanup, to discuss the Fisheries Management Plan meeting scheduled for May 8th, to discuss the Heritage Discovery Workshop scheduled for April 21st, and to set a date for the first annual gathering.
 - May 8, 2012 (Seeley) to review an April 28th river cleanup, discuss the (existing) draft Namekagon River fisheries management plan with National Park Service staff, and discuss the plan for the first annual gathering in June.



Based on the May 8th discussion of the draft Fisheries Management Plan with National Park Service staff, some of the assumptions made by the NRP advisory group regarding the future of the draft Fisheries Management Plan, consensus regarding stakeholder cold-water fishery goals and objectives, the ability for NRP to have a voice in main-stem river discussions, and the viability of the NRP trout fishermen constituency were proven to be incorrect.

- Nonstock Corporation registration was approved by the State of Wisconsin on December 5, 2011.
- Membership/donation activities started on September 21, 2011 when our first check (a donation for start-up expenses) was received. NRP established an e-mail list of 240 subscribers (people who have expressed an interest in NRP) using the MailChimp product to send out campaigns. Unfortunately, many local residents are not active e-mail users, some even being unwilling to provide a mailing address.
- Board of Directors meetings:
 - December 28, 2011 (Note: The meeting minutes are attached as Appendix 3 as an example) to reaffirm the Bylaws, approve establishment of a checking account, approve an application for the DNR Qualified River Management Plan designation, and plans for public meetings on January 29th and February 9th.
 - January 17, 2012 (Seeley) to discuss financials and possible grant applications.

- February 14, 2012 to discuss financials, expand membership on the interim board, to discuss liability insurance, and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) stakeholder relationships.
- March 6, 2012 to discuss financials, the status of planning committees, MOU stakeholder relationships, the expansion of the board, and application to the IRS for 501(c)(3) designation, and a draft of the DNR River Planning grant application.
- Application for IRS 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation designation was submitted on May 8, 2012 and approval was received on August 20, 2012.
- Approval by DNR as a Qualified River Management Organization on January 6, 2012.
- Public meetings:
 - September 22, 2011 (Seeley) to listen to thoughts and concerns about the Namekagon River, to introduce the organization to the public, to meet prospective supporters and donors, and to find additional members for the advisory group.
 - January 18, 2012 (Spoooner) in partnership with the National Park Service to network with individuals and organizations with and interest in the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway.
 - January 29, 2012 (Seeley) to publicize (the existence of) NRP and its future.
 - February 9, 2012 (Hayward) to brainstorm the desired future for NRP and to survey the interests of the attendees.
 - April 21, 2012 (Seeley) Heritage Discovery Workshop (listening session) in partnership with the St. Croix Valley Foundation as part of the St. Croix Heritage Area planning process.
 - June 16, 2012 (Seeley) 1st Annual Gathering to present a visual tour (via mapping software) of the Namekagon River, to discuss progress to date, and survey results from February 9th meeting



- An application for a DNR River Planning grant was submitted in April 2012.

II. Grant-supported Activities and Materials

After the DNR approval of grant RP-325-13, NRP continued to increase organizational capacity. Advisory group meetings continued through January 2013 at which time advisors were invited to scheduled Board of Director meetings. Board of Director meetings were continued on a scheduled basis.

Goal 1 – Grow Organizational Capacity

1.1 501(c)(3) Discussion

A search for an application fee donor was initiated in March 2012 and a donation was received in early April. As noted above, the application for IRS 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation designation was submitted on May 8, 2012 and approval by the IRS was received on August 20, 2012. As the application was completed by a volunteer, no professional fee was paid for the development of the application content.

1.2 Public Meetings

Public Meetings on:

1. July 20, 2013 (Seeley) Second annual year in review. “Fish and Climate Change” presentation.
2. June 14, 2014 (Seeley) Third annual year in review and discussion.
3. September 6, 2014 (Cable) The day-long meeting theme was “The Namekagon Confluence: Coming Together to Preserve Our Water.” The main objective was to identify the top six initiatives that bring the greatest benefit to the future of the Namekagon Watershed.
4. June 6, 2015 (Seeley) Fourth annual year in review focused on a frank and in-depth discussion of the future direction of the organization.
5. September 12, 2015 (Hayward) – The second annual confluence in partnership with the Northwest Passage and St. Croix River Association. The Northwest Passage “In a New Light” project was featured which included riverway scenes and underwater photography.



1.3 Website (namekagon.org)

1. An interim web/blog site was created in August 2011 by a volunteer at no cost to NRP.
2. A permanent web/blog site was created in September 2011. The design was completed by a volunteer at no cost to NRP. The Namekagon.org website name (URL) was registered and a web host was selected and paid. Over time, the website



- name registration and hosting service has been periodically renewed.
3. A permanent NRP logo was (finally) created in November 2015.

Goal 2 – Effectively Collaborate with Agency/Tribal Management

2.1 MOU and partnership discussion

From the first advisory/steering group meeting on August 8, 2011, the concept of partnership has been an integral part of organizational thinking and planning. There was early recognition that NRP alone would never have sufficient capacity to meet the challenges facing the Namekagon River and Watershed, and that state and federal agencies, tribal entities, county and local units of government, and local social, service, and conservation organizations were legitimate, established, and valuable stakeholders.

Two types of partnerships were pursued:

1. Written Memorandums of Understanding were signed with the National Park Service/St. Croix National Scenic Riverway, Cable Natural History Museum, USDA, Forest Service, Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, Couderay Waters Regional Land Trust, and Trout Unlimited.
2. Non-written agreements were reached with other stakeholders, including the following: Bayfield County Lakes Forum, Bayfield County Land & Water Conservation Department, Bayfield Regional Conservancy, Beehive Botanicals, Courte Oreilles Lakes Association, Down to Earth Tours, Friends of the St. Croix Headwaters “Canoes on Wheels” program, Hayward Fly Fishing Company, Lac Courte Oreilles Boys and Girls Club, Northwest Passage “In a New Light” project, Northwest Wisconsin Waters Consortium, River Alliance of Wisconsin, Sawyer County Conservation Department, Sawyer County Lakes Forum, Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute, Northern Waters Environmental School, Northland College, St. Croix River Association, St. Croix Valley Foundation, Trust for Public Land, and University of Notre Dame–Department of Biological Sciences.

Goal 3 – Gather Data Needed to Assess the Current Health of the Namekagon River

3.1 Leonards School Gauge (USGS 05331833)



This river gauge is a US Geological Service operated flow and temperature gauge (aka gage) on the Namekagon River near the Leonard’s School Road crossing, located about 4 miles downstream from Cable, Wisconsin. The Leonard School Gauge is the only permanent monitoring site with real-time telemetry on the Namekagon River. Water temperature, river height, and discharge rate are measured and

permanently recorded. The measurement and telemetry equipment are inspected and calibrated on a periodic basis by U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) staff to insure accuracy.

Leonards School Gauge has been in place since 1996 and its continued operation is important for both scientific and recreational reasons. The gauge provides important information to scientists on flow and temperature; particularly important to understanding and planning for variations brought on by climate change. The gauge also provides important trip planning information for recreational paddlers, fishermen, and outfitters. During high river flows, the information provided by Leonard's School Gauge is important to public safety.



Unfortunately, there is no one source of funding to cover the cost of operating Leonards School Gauge, which is currently about \$13,000 a year. A Leonards School Gauge fund-raising effort was started in July 2013 when the USGS threatened to shut-down the operation of the river gauge on October 1, 2013 (and again a year later on October 1, 2014) due to federal budget constraints. This fund-raising effort which lasted several years was done in partnership with the National Park Service and St. Croix River Association and continues to date.

In July 2013 it became clear that earlier assumptions regarding effective communication among Namekagon River state and federal agency stakeholders, and their on-going willingness to financially support Leonards School Gauge was incorrect.

3.2 Recon to “look for cold water”



On June 10, 2012, Patrick Shirey, University of Notre Dame-Department of Biological Sciences, arrived in the Cable area along with five students to start monitoring water temperatures in the upper Namekagon River and its perennial tributaries. This paddle-based recon was assisted by National Park Service staff and a NRP

volunteer. The recon party monitored the river temperature along the way, looking for localized cool spots. The “main stem” river temperatures were found to be in the 21-22° C range, which while cool enough for trout in June, will climb



above the 25° C point as summer temperatures rise. This threshold temperature is considered to be lethal to our trout when encountered for an extended time. Water temperature in the localized area of the Five Mile Creek and Cap Creek confluence with the river were the only places found with significantly lower values. Later in 2012 automated temperature data loggers would be installed to continuously monitor water temperatures at key river points near tributaries to verify specific areas as suitable trout habitat.

3.3 Big Brook Study



To study the fishery population in Big Brook (Namekagon River tributary) on July 28, 2012, Patrick Shirey of the University of Notre Dame-Department of Biological Sciences resided in the Cable area along with five undergraduate students. NRP staff provided access to the survey site by arranging access across private property (owned by the Johnson Foundation) and also assisted with the study. Barrier nets were erected at the upstream and downstream

ends of a 100 meter section of the stream. The fish population was examined by carefully collecting as many fish as possible. Three passes were made along the section, and fish were captured by temporarily stunning (with electrical current) and netting them. Each fish was identified by species, measured for length, and weighed. The fish were released and the barrier nets removed. Cold water, cool water, and warm water species were found. The



stream's physical characteristics were determined by examining a cross-section every five meters. Water flow was measured, the stream width was measured, and the composition of the stream bottom was analyzed. In addition, the tree canopy was measured, the water temperature was recorded at multiple locations, photographs were taken, the amount of wood in and along the stream was determined, and the elevational change of the 100 meter section was measured.

3.4 Report on Namekagon Watershed Status

Participation at the October 21, 2014 St. Croix Watershed Research Station Rendezvous conference sponsored by Minnesota Science Museum and held at the Warner nature Center in Marine on St. Croix, Minnesota. Presentations and discussions of the latest research and scientific-management on the Riverway, including the Namekagon River.

The Rendezvous is attended by Agency personnel, academia, and private citizens with an interest in watershed issues. NRP discussed Leonards School Gauge financial challenges and asked for support from attending organizations.

3.5 Shues Pond/Creek (Hayward)

A 100 x 20' demonstration buffer was installed at Shues Pond as part of Musky Festival Family Fishing Days June 22-24, 2015. This involved eight partners: Sawyer County Land and Water and Couderay Waters Regional Land Trust who jointly purchased 500 native riparian plants and did the site plan, the City of Hayward who approved the work in their park, students of NWES, members of the Hayward Garden Club and anglers and guardians at the fishing event who planted them, NRP who purchased and delivered biologs and bio-mulch to the site, Excelsior Corp. of Rice Lake who sold those materials to NRP at 1/2 price for educational/demonstration purposes, and Hayward Lakes Chamber of Commerce who advertised the event. The buffer seems to have taken well and is working well as a demonstration of that it can be beautiful and pollinator friendly with the right mix of flowering plants, and that it repels nuisance geese. Curlex rolls and logs were used to stabilize 100 feet of Shues Pond shoreline. Twelve native plant species, with an emphasis on flowering plants, were planted in a 20 foot width. A Family Fishing Days event at the site attracted several hundred families to see the demonstration area.

3.6 Flowmeter Study of Namekagon River

A flowmeter study was initiated with partners Courte Oreilles Lakes Association (COLA) and Northern Waters Environmental School (NWES). Objectives were to teach NWES



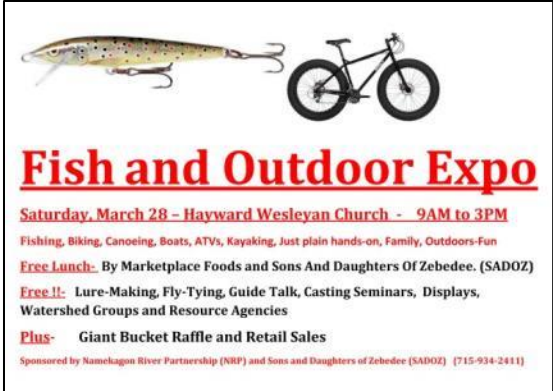


students about river flow (aka flow modeling) and to compare results gathered at multiple sites with data gathered by the Leonards School Gauge. NRP and COLA acquired a professional flowmeter and NRP completed in-class training and the first in-stream study session on October 13, 2015 at Phipps Landing.

Goal 4 – Public Awareness and Participation

4.1 Educational Outreach

Educational events:

- An autumn 2012 photo contest was sponsored by NRP to interest river lovers who did not (or could not) necessarily fish or paddle on the river. NRP sought to identify another river/watershed constituency. Youth were encouraged to participate through a “young adult” category. This was also an opportunity to publicize NRP and the Namekagon River.
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- The poster for the 2012 Autumn Photo Contest features a scenic river landscape with trees in autumn colors. The text includes the contest title, a quote "Hey! Take Your Best Shot!", and details about the prize (matted photo, gallery display, and sale to the highest bidder). It also lists rules for photo submission, including file format (JPEG), resolution (300 dpi), and deadline (October 15, 2012).
- March 11, 2013 (Hayward) Day-long Fish Expo – in partnership with Trout Unlimited, DNR, and National Park Service. Conservation-oriented exhibits and presentations were provided, as well as a virtual tour of the Namekagon River. Venue space was donated by the Wesleyan Church. This was an effort to improve the visibility of NRP in the community and to gain memberships and donations for the organization.
 - March 15, 2014 (Hayward) Day-long Wild River Fishing Expo – in partnership with Trout Unlimited and DNR. For the second year, conservation-oriented exhibits and presentations were provided. Venue space was donated by the Wesleyan Church. The expo was geared to entire families and provided an opportunity “to get out of the house” after a long winter.
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- The poster for the Wild River Fishing Expo is titled "WILD RIVER FISHING EXPO" and is for Saturday, March 15, 2014, from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm at Hayward Wesleyan Church. It lists activities such as a Giant Tackle Auction at 3:00 pm and a Brook Trout Raffle at 5:00 pm. The event is sponsored by Namekagon River Partnership, Wild River Trout Unlimited, and Sons & Daughters of Zebedee.
- March 28, 2015 (Hayward) Day-long Fish and Outdoor Expo – in partnership with Trout Unlimited and DNR. Conservation-oriented exhibits and presentations were provided. Venue space was donated by the Wesleyan Church. The focus was broadened from (just) a fishing focus to include the great outdoors of northwestern Wisconsin. This provided an opportunity to promote NRP and to talk about events such as the Namekagon River cleanup.
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- The poster for the Fish and Outdoor Expo features an image of a fishing lure and a bicycle. The title is "Fish and Outdoor Expo" and it is for Saturday, March 28, at Hayward Wesleyan Church from 9 AM to 3 PM. Activities include fishing, biking, canoeing, and retail sales. It is sponsored by Namekagon River Partnership (NRP) and Sons and Daughters of Zebedee (SADDOZ).

- A second photo contest in the autumn of 2013 photo again provided an opportunity to celebrate and appreciate the Namekagon River and surrounding watershed.



- NRP has made numerous presentations to our partners to introduce our organization and to discuss projects of common interest. An example is the Brule River Watershed Congress. NRP partners with the DNR Brule River State Forest and the Brule River Sportsman's Club. The congress is designed to be watershed group networking team to advise the Brule folks on a whole menu of watershed management issues (with a strong emphasis on the cold-water fishery). Two NRP Board members participated as a member of the fisheries team and the team leader/facilitator during meeting on October 31, 2014 and April 7, 2015.

4.2 River Cleanup Events

Namekagon River cleanup events in partnership with the National Park Service (NPS), Hayward Fly Fishing Company, and Friends of the St. Croix Headwaters. Local volunteers (aka river lovers) welcomed the opportunity to get outdoors in the early spring time:

- April 28, 2012 (Hayward to Trego reach of the Namekagon River) Volunteers gathered at the Hayward Landing for a safety briefing, a quick snack, and work assignments. They were split into four crews, with a drift boat (aka garbage barge) and guide leading each group. Thank you Hayward Fly Fishing Company for your support. National Park Service



staff joined in with the first annual cleanup effort as they are also passionate about the river and enjoy its pristine condition.

- April 27, 2013 (Hayward to Trego reach of the Namekagon River) Sixty-five volunteers gathered at the second annual cleanup event at the Hayward Landing site for a safety briefing, a little conversation, and work assignments early Saturday morning. They were split into four work crews, with a drift boat and river guide leading canoes for each group. Thank you Hayward Fly Fishing Company for your support.



The Namekagon River was running bank-full as the winter snow melt was still in progress. The river was active with waterfowl, eagles, and wildlife – even some Sandhill cranes were sighted. The weather could have not been nicer. While winter still ruled only a week earlier, it was warm and sunny – a perfect day to be on the river. All the landings were open, except for Big Bend which still had a foot of snow covering the area.



- April 25, 2015 (Hayward to Trego reach of the Namekagon River) This was our third annual “pre-green” cleanup and again focused on four sections of the river: Hayward Landing to Stinnett Landing, Stinnett Landing to North Springbrook Landing, North Springbrook Landing to Earl Landing, and Earl Landing to Trego Landing. Volunteers split into teams to travel each river section in canoes or drift boats, collecting trash along the way. For those who did not want to be on the water, there were opportunities to help with event logistics, like driving volunteers to and from the work sites (i.e., put-in and take-out points). Thank you Hayward Fly Fishing Company for your support.



Note: the “official” cleanup event in April 2014 was canceled by the National Park Service due to high water levels. NRP volunteers collected trash on behalf of NRP.

4.3 River Paddle (Youth)

1. Eco Adventure can be summarized as middle-school students on the river in canoes with planned educational lesson modules for two days with an overnight camping experience. Also included: a school-based introduction, paddle training for students and teachers, and school-based post-paddle assessment.

River paddles (Eco Adventure) are in partnership with the National Park Service, Washburn County Conservation Department, St. Croix Valley Foundation, Friends of the St. Croix Headwaters, St. Croix River Association, and citizen-scientist subject-matter experts. They are held on the Namekagon River due to the river's gentle nature, the "near-wilderness" experience that is possible, river landings that provide ready access points, and the nearby location of the Trego Visitor Center staffed by the National Park Service public safety rangers:

- September 10-11, 2012 – During the summer of 2012 plans were made for the inaugural season (pilot paddle) for the Eco Adventure project. Educational materials were purchased, a curriculum was agreed-upon, and subject-matter experts were identified. An itinerary was developed with the assistance of interpretive rangers at the Trego National Park Service office. Put-in and take-out points were chosen for safety. Arrangements were made with a charter school in Minong to have the students complete the paddle during the school season as the paddle was considered to be an outdoor classroom. Additional preparation included "flat water" canoeing instruction for the students as well as canoe safety management instruction for the adult volunteers.
- September 24-25, 2013 – The second season's paddle of the Eco Adventure project refined the curriculum and lesson plans.
- September 16-17, 2014 – The third season of the Eco Adventure project provided a big surprise. Just days before the scheduled paddle, the National Park Service determined that a recent rain event had raised the river height and velocity to dangerous levels (i.e., flood stage). The paddle/camp was moved to an alternative site on Leisure Lake (Washburn Youth Camp near Trego).



The third season also added a technology component. A UM-Duluth graduate student at the Center for Environmental Education, agreed to direct our project as she worked on her master's thesis relating to curriculum development and an assessment of the use of iPad (computer tablet) technology in an outdoor experiential-learning setting. The DNR generously funded a portion of the graduate student's



time and expenses through a grant (“iPaddle Youth Watershed Education Project”), and Hamline University-Center for Global Environmental Education partnered to help provide an educational framework for the project by offering the graduate student a scholarship at their three-day St. Croix River Institute in June 2014.

- May 26-27, 2015 – The fourth season of the Eco Adventure project provided an opportunity to get back on the Namekagon River again and to refine the technology-enhanced curriculum. The fly-fishing component was expanded thanks to Hayward Fly Fishing staff.



An effort was also made to expand the “arts” component of the curriculum (i.e., expand “STEM” to “STEAM”) by adding water color painting thanks to a National Park Service interpretative ranger.

A sample Eco Adventure itinerary is included as Appendix 4.

2. Forest Lab Intern Program (FLIP) in partnership with the Cable Natural History Museum and Friends of the St. Croix Headwaters held on June 12-13, 2013. The program consisted of a fishing and river ecology experience on an overnight canoe trip on the upper Namekagon River for local youth.
3. Banderdinker Paddle on Nelson Lake (Totogatic River) on June 8, 2013 in partnership with Lac Courte Oreilles (LCO) Boys and Girl Club and Friends of the St. Croix Headwaters.

4.4 Namekagon River Paddles

- Namekagon River Paddle from Cable to the Riverside Landing near Danbury on May 20-25, 2012 was hosted by the St. Croix River Association and assisted by NRP including a rest stop and program at Seeley on May 20th.
- Namekagon River Paddle from the Phillipi Landing at Cable to the Riverside Landing near Danbury on May 18-24, 2013 was hosted by the St. Croix River Association and assisted by NRP including a rest stop and program at Seeley on May 18th.
- Namekagon River Paddle from Cable to the Riverside Landing near Danbury on June 13-19, 2015 was hosted by the St. Croix River Association and assisted by NRP including a rest stop and program at Seeley on June 13th.



4.5 WAV Program Monitoring

The Water Action Volunteer (WAV) activity was moved from a citizen-scientist activity at Hatchery Creek in Hayward to a component of the Eco Adventure project on the Namekagon River. A Citizen Science Day event featuring a Water Action Volunteer workshop planned for May 31, 2014 – in partnership with the Sawyer County Conservation Department and Kris Stepenuck (WAV state-wide coordinator) had to be canceled due to funding difficulties and a venue conflict. The WAV activities were added to the Eco Adventure curriculum and the WAV supplies were borrowed.



Goal 5 – Identification of Funding Sources and Long-term Planning

1. NRP has managed to obtain several larger donations (e.g., Johnson Foundation) for certain purposes but has not (yet) found a way to produce income on a sustainable basis other than memberships and small donations. This subject is being actively pursued by the Board of Directors.
2. Long-term planning has been a problem as it has been difficult to “institutionalize” organization knowledge through several transitions of the presidency. This challenge is made more difficult as we lack a paid executive director. NRP has recently been talking with the St. Croix River Association to better understand their visioning and long-term planning process.

“Goal 6” (grant extension revised goals) – Watershed Tours and Shared Program Events

Note: Appendix 1 lists grant extension revised goals.

6.1 Watershed Tour

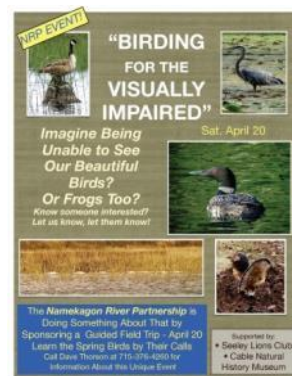
Upper watershed bus tour on October 19, 2013 (Cable area) – in partnership with Down to Earth Tours, DNR, Couderay Waters Regional Land Trust, and Trout Unlimited. The tour objectives were to promote stakeholder communication, familiarize stakeholders with the history and selected (cold-water) tributary sites, and sound out



interest in an annual stakeholder roundtable discussion. The tour started at the “Nam Dam” site which is the dam on Lake Namekagon that is considered to be the source of the Namekagon River. Cap Creek, a vital cold-water tributary, Pacwawong flowage (historic Wild Rice area), and the Leonards School Gauge site were also included in the tour. Thank you to Down to Earth Tours

6.2 Birding Program

Guided field trip (near Seeley) “Birding for the Visually Impaired” on April 20, 2013 – in partnership with the Seeley Lions Club and the Cable Natural History Museum. This special program provided an opportunity for both impaired and non-impaired individuals to enjoy the Namekagon River area during the bird migration season. Our thanks to the volunteers who made this event possible and to Down to Earth Tours.



6.3 Films

1. The Wild & Scenic Film Festival on Tour was held on April 11, 2015 (Hayward) – NRP acted as a primary sponsor in partnership with Couderay Waters Regional Land Trust. The film festival left attendees feeling inspired and motivated to go out and make a conservation difference in the Cable-Hayward-Trego community.



2. The “Chasing Ice” conservation film was shown in Hayward on February 8, 2014 – NRP acted as a secondary sponsor in partnership with Couderay Waters Regional Land Trust. In the spring of 2005, acclaimed environmental photographer James Balog headed to the Arctic on a tricky assignment for National



Geographic: to capture images to help tell the story of the Earth’s changing climate. The film provided an inspirational message regarding the importance of environmental protection to the local community.

6.4 Springbrook Wayside on the Namekagon River

The National Park Service and the St. Croix River Association verbally requested (as a show of support) that NRP make a \$100 donation to help fund the transfer and improvement of a five-acre parcel including 460 feet of shoreline on the Namekagon River from Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) to the National Park Service. Specifically the donation funded required property title work and an environmental survey to make the transfer possible.

6.5 Brochure and Media

1. Initially a NRP volunteer prepared an interim brochure at no cost. Later John Haack (UW-Extension) donated the artwork for a more professional brochure and NRP just paid printing costs.
2. NRP has periodically used Hayward, Spooner, and Drummond print media for free articles and paid advertisements. NRP volunteers have been guests on local radio stations, and NRP has paid for remote radio broadcasts of some of our events (e.g., Fish Expo) to attract attendees and attention to NRP.

Appendix 1

Revised Grant Objectives December 2013

"Namekagon River Partnership (NRP) was awarded a River Protection Planning Grant RP-235-13 titled "Building the Capacity of the Namekagon River Partnership." This grant was for \$10,000 and had an end date of December 31, 2013.

NRP would like to extend the grant period to December 31, 2014 and repurpose some of the funds.

We have made excellent progress toward our capacity-building goals during the original grant period, but some things have changed since we submitted our grant application.

1. We had planned to use significant grant funding to establish and maintain an organizational website. We have largely been able to do with NRP resources, so these costs have been lower than anticipated.
2. We had planned to use significant grant funding to prepare and maintain an accounting system and mailing list database. We have largely been able to do with NRP resources, so these costs have been lower than anticipated.
3. We had planned to use significant grant funding to develop and print brochures and other informational materials. Due to generous help from UW-Extension (John Haack), these costs have been lower than anticipated.
4. We planned to use grant funding to purchase several Water Action Volunteer (WAV) field kits. It now appears that these kits will be donated to us by Friends of the St. Croix Headwaters.
5. We had planned to make a significant effort to help move the draft inter-agency fishery management plan for the Namekagon River forward. This has not been possible, for reasons outside of our ability to control, and we have moved more quickly than anticipated to a watershed perspective (rather than just a main-stem river focus).
6. We had not planned for our "rapid" success in establishing written agreements with key watershed stakeholder. To date, we have signed Memorandums of Understanding with Cable Natural History Museum, Couderay Waters Regional Land Trust, National Park Service / St. Croix National Scenic Riverway, Trout Unlimited (Wild Rivers Chapter), and USDA, Forest Service, Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. This success has led to possible opportunities such as establishing local funding support for the Leonards Bridge river gage on the Namekagon River, establishment of an annual stakeholder conference for the Namekagon River Watershed, and a series of watershed tours and shared program events.
7. We had not anticipated the need for high-quality watershed delineation maps this soon.

As a result of our imperfect planning (and anticipation), we would like to repurpose grant funds to support our efforts to work with our stakeholders and to expand our stakeholder relationships (additional MOU relationships are anticipated). We would also like to use grant funds for some initial watershed delineation maps (perhaps through St. Mary's University of Minnesota-Winona GeoSpatial Services).

Appendix 2
Namekagon River Partnership
Steering Group Task Timeline
Last revision: 1/6/2012

Completed

[08/08/11] Create temporary website
[08/14/11] Develop one-page draft description of organization
[08/14/11] Gather sample Articles and Bylaws
[09/10/11] Select website domain name
[09/13/11] Seek early donations/loans for start-up expenses
[09/15/11] Expand Steering Group membership
[09/17/11] Talk with stakeholders, identify potential stakeholders
[09/20/11] Set up QuickBooks accounting
[09/21/11] Develop e-newsletter
[09/22/11] Hold first public meeting (Seeley)
[09/29/11] Develop and distribute draft public feedback survey
[11/11/11] Draft membership brochure
[11/21/11] Hold organizational planning meeting (Steering Group)
[11/21/11] Finalize name and mailing address of organization
[11/21/11] Finalize Initial (interim) Board membership
[11/29/11] Develop Draft Bylaws document
[11/30/11] Obtain post office box (Hayward) [PO Box 1349]
[12/01/11] Complete Articles of Incorporation document and submit to State of Wisconsin
[12/05/11] State approval of Non-Stock Corporation application (Chapter181)
[12/09/11] Obtain Federal Employer Identification Number (EIN)
[12/28/11] Initial (interim) Board approval of Working Bylaws
[01/06/12] Approval by DNR as Qualified River Management Organization

January 2012- Open checking account (Hayward)
January 2012- Draft statement of organizational goals
January 2012- Develop plan for membership drive
January 2012- Approve brochure and start membership & donations drive
January 2012- Submit grant application to Natural Resources Foundation?
January 2012- Set up social media (e.g. Facebook)
{1/17/12} January 2012- Hold organizational planning meeting (Steering Group)
January 2012- Recruit potential Board members
January 2012- Distribute public feedback survey
January 2012- Start planning work for IRS 501(c)(3) non-profit charity designation
January 2012- Outreach & DNR grant plan (Paddles, annual meeting, river monitoring)
January 2012- Develop Internship plan (Northland College)

{2/09/12} February 2012- Hold second public meeting (Hayward)
February 2012- Meet with DNR staff to discuss planned DNR grant

March-April 2012- Obtain liability insurance (including officers & directors)
March-April 2012- Select membership of permanent Board of Directors
March-April 2012- Develop specifics for annual meeting

Appendix 3
Namekagon River Partnership (NRP)
Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
December 28, 2011
Seeley Sawmill Saloon, 1pm

Present were: Bob Olson, Scott Peterson, Susan Schirott, Wendy Williamson, Cindy Ferraro (guest)

The meeting was called to order. A quorum was present.

Financials for 11/30/11 were discussed. The account balance is \$958.45. Note: these funds are being held by Friends of the St. Croix Headwaters (fiscal sponsor) until a bank account is established.

Several informational items were discussed:

- The NRP mailing address is: Post Office Box 1349, Hayward, WI 54843-1349.
- An Employee Identification Number (EIN) has been established.
- The Wisconsin Non-Stock Corporation (Chapter 181) registration has been completed.

The working Bylaws document developed from the River Alliance of Wisconsin bylaws sample was discussed. It was agreed to schedule a structured discussion of the Bylaws sometime before the first annual meeting (and selection of the permanent Board) if there was interest.

Approval of Bylaws (dated 12-28-11): Bob Olson moved to approve the Bylaws. Wendy Williamson seconded. Motion was carried.

The draft NRP brochure (dated 12-11-11) including Membership levels was discussed. The following Membership level and annual member dues schedule was approved.

Membership level	Annual dues
Angel	\$1,000
Guardian	\$ 500
Patron	\$ 250
Steward	\$ 100
Sustaining	\$ 50

Other	\$ _____
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Approval of Membership levels and annual dues: Susan Schirott moved to approve the Membership levels and annual dues schedule. Wendy Williamson seconded. Motion was carried.

The DNR Qualified River Management Organization application form and process were discussed. Note: this application must be approved by the DNR before grant applications can be submitted.

Approval for Scott Peterson to submit a DNR Qualified River Management Organization application: Susan Schirott moved to approve. Wendy Williamson seconded. Motion was carried.

The selection of a bank/credit union for NRP funds was discussed.

Approval for Scott Peterson and Wendy Williamson to open NRP saving and checking accounts at the Hayward Area Community Credit Union. Scott Peterson and Wendy Williamson are authorized to sign checks and transfer funds between the saving and checking accounts. Checks over \$100 will require two signatures. Wendy Williamson moved to approve. Bob Olson seconded. Motion was carried.

The desirability of submitting small-scale grant applications due during the January-February time period was discussed. These would be for amounts typically not exceeding \$1,000, and would be used to fund anticipated 2012 NRP programs including community/youth outreach.

Approval for Scott Peterson to submit one or more grant applications: Susan Schirott moved to approve. Wendy Williamson seconded. Motion was carried.

There was a discussion of plans for the January 29th Rendezvous Party and February 9th public meeting. Cindy Ferraro requested that NRP have an information table at the January 29th event (2-4pm at the Sawmill Saloon in Seeley), issue e-mail invitations to the Rendezvous Party to all on our e-mail list, and have information about the St. Croix River Association May 2012 Namekagon River Paddle available. It was also requested that Branda Thwaites, National Park Service, be invited to have an information table about the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway and asked to bring maps for distribution to participants. Arrangements have been made by Wendy Williamson to reserve the Hayward Library meeting room at 6:30pm for the February 9th public meeting. Wendy will ask Dave Carlson, Northland Adventures, to speak at the meeting.

There was a discussion regarding the desirability of NRP securing liability insurance (including officer and director coverage) before hosting any river-related events. There was agreement that this coverage, most likely starting in spring 2012, was mandatory from the Board's perspective. Scott Peterson and Wendy Williamson agreed to seek specific policy alternatives.

The next meeting scheduled is the Steering Group meeting on January 17th at 1pm at the Sawmill Saloon

Adjournment: Motion by Wendy Williamson, second by Bob Olson to adjourn. Motion was carried.

The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by: Scott Peterson

Appendix 4

Eco Adventure Pilot Itinerary

September 10-11, 2012

First Day Pilot Paddle

Launch (put-in) site: **North Springbrook Landing** on the Namekagon River. Approximately 1-hour paddle to lunch site (2.5 river miles).

- 10:00am**: River Safety Briefing [Scott Peterson]; verify team assignments, distribute student journals and team cameras
- 10:30am** Start of paddle
- 11:30am** Lunch at Springbrook Landing,
- 12:30pm** Start 2-hour paddle to Big Bend camp site (5 river miles)

Overnight Camp

Camp site: **Big Bend Landing Group Camp site**

- 2:30pm** Snack, potty break
- 3:00pm** Conduct ***Aquatic Plant*** [John Kudlas] and ***Macroinvertebrate*** [Frank Pratt] **lessons** (about two hours) Note: Students will be divided into two teams and each lesson will be taught twice.
- 5:30pm** Set up tents, prepare camp fire, and prepare dinner.
- 7:00pm** Campground program [Joan Jacobowski] Note: sunset is about 7:30pm.
Evening activities: Storytelling, marshmallow roasting.

Second Day Pilot Paddle

- 7:00am** Breakfast Note: sunrise about 6:45am
- 8:00am** ***Water Quality lesson*** [Scott Peterson] (about 1 hour) This will include determining: water temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, clarity (turbidity) of the water.

Tear down tents clean-up campsite.

Launch by **9:30am**.

Approximately 1.5 hour paddle to **Earl Park Landing** (four river miles)

- 11:00pm** Lunch and ***Fishing Demonstration (Cane Pole to Tenkara)*** [Jeff Butler]
- 12:00pm** ***Eco Adventure Lab*** [Scott Peterson] (about one hour) Note: Students will be divided into two teams; which team will score higher?
- 1:30pm** Paddle approximately two hours to take-out site (four river miles)
Take-out site: **Trego Landing** on Namekagon River
- 3:30pm** Gather at National Park Service Trego Visitors Center
Snack – Wrap-up – complete evaluation – celebrate accomplishments.
Participants depart