

November 2022 Quarterly Report
Farmer-Led Watershed Council Coordinator
Tara Daun
Hired on 5/17/21 @ .9 FTE
Reported on 11/29/22

Council Activities:

- Council Meetings
 - Hay River: Held a council meeting in November with low farmer turnout
 - Approved for \$20,000 from DATCP for 2023
 - Will focus on incentives and education
 - Have more applications than incentive funds. Will be pro-rating cover crop payments.
 - Will have more than 1 farmer attending the producer-led & cover crop conferences in December
 - Approved a January event for livestock education based on need they see in the neighborhood to manage dry lots with less erosion.
 - Dry Run: Held a council meeting in November with low farmer turnout.
 - Have more applications than incentive funds, will be capping number of cover crop acres next year that one farmer can apply for.
 - Will be sending 2 farmers to the cover crop and producer-led conferences.
 - Received \$10,000 from DATCP for 2023 to use for education and incentives.
 - Horse Creek: Held a council meeting in November
 - Received \$10,000 from DATCP for 2023.
 - Exploring more ways to do outreach within the local community
 - Planning a 2023 winter event in March.
 - South Kinni: Held a council meeting in November
 - Approved for \$10,000 from DATCP
 - Have a strong representation of landowners in the council but not much from local farmers.
 - Starting a pollinator education campaign for farmers and landowners – they are also expanding their pollinator incentive to roadside areas.
 - Developed profit per trial numbers on their test plot field for the first time.
- Hosted Events
 - South Kinni test plot hosted 20 UWRF students with Dr. Justen's class to discuss soil health on October 17th.
 - Hay River hosted nitrogen field day at the Cormican farm – 21 attendees with good conversation and great potential results.
 - South Kinni hosted 36 people at their Soil Health 101 field day in River Falls. This was a very successful event.
 - Horse Creek hosted 17 attendees to discuss their spring infiltration testing at their test plot.

Outreach Activities

- Presentations to other groups
 - Presented to 40 students at CVTC on soil health and Soil Your Undies competition
 - Presented to 12 at Wisconsin Association of Professional Agricultural Consultants monthly meeting on how agronomists can integrate with farmer-led councils.
 - Spoke to 60 attendees about Farmer-Led Councils at Shell Lake grazing education event.
 - Tabled at UWRF Sustainability Fair – spoke to students and other non-profit potential partners.
 - Lake Stream Partnership presentation on the future of PLWGs as they age – presented to roughly 50 people.
 - Met with St. Croix FU Chapter with ~12 people for a conversation on water quality issues.
 - Presented to 20 CVTC students at Dunn County Demo Farm field day on Soil Your Undies.
 - Presented to 17 people at the Baldwin Botany Belles and Beaus on soil health and PLWGs.
- Partnership building
 - Met with St. Croix basin partners from MN and WI to discuss resource sharing across state lines and potential capacity.
 - Opened communication lines with NW Beef Producers Association
 - Worked on regional winter education event with other farmer-led councils assisting in planning for the first time.
 - Opened discussions with LSP to highlight coordination potential of their grazing specialist with our work.
 - Discussed NOPP opportunities and other research opportunities with UWRF staff.
- Virtual outreach has continued with continued updates to the website, quarterly e-newsletter and facebook.
 - Newsletter has 322 subscribers.
 - Fall newsletter went out in September with a 50% open rate
 - A December newsletter will be coming out next week.
 - Website had 541 views in the last 90 days
 - Facebook presence is maintained, followers up to 386
 - We continue to get good feedback from the farmers on our Facebook page
 - 3,245 impressions in the last 90 days – down since the last report, I haven't prioritized Facebook outreach as much since outreach this quarter has focused on face-to-face presentations.
 - We did share survey results from our spring survey.

Plans for Winter/Spring

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

- Speaking Events
 - Groundswell in December
 - NW Beef Producers annual meeting in January

- Red Cedar Conference in March
 - Wisconsin Lakes & Rivers Association Presentation in April
- Hosted Events
 - Livestock management event for Hay River in January
 - Regional corn-soybean producer education event in February – this will be a big event in New Richmond
 - Biologicals and nitrogen education event in Horse Creek in March.
- Outreach and engagement
 - Follow up with farmers who participated in Soil Your Undies on yield numbers and comparisons.
 - Pollinator education to South Kinni collaboration with GROWW
 - Attend meetings of other PLWGs including WWCC annual meeting on 12/8.