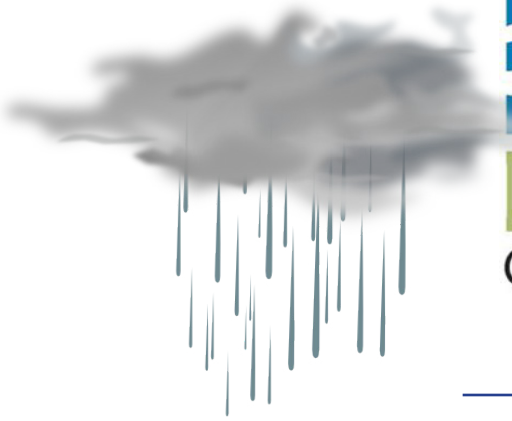
April 2015



LAKE WINNEBAGO
QUALITY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION
of Fond du Lac County

Total Maximum Daily Loads

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources completes a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study for water bodies that have water quality that is considered "impaired". The TMDL identifies the source of different nutrients and contaminants entering the waterbody and allocates discharge limits to the different sources of those contaminants. TMDLs have recently been completed for the Rock River (near Madison) and the Lower Fox River (near Green Bay), and the process is underway for large watersheds like the Wisconsin River, the Milwaukee River, and the upper Fox/Wolf Rivers (which includes Lake Winnebago). Preliminary allocations are expected to be determined for the Fond du Lac area over the next year, with EPA approval of the TMDL hoped for by 2016. It's likely that the Fond du Lac area TMDLs will focus on the amount of phosphorus the City of Fond du Lac's Wastewater Treatment Plant is allowed to discharge and how much total suspended solids (TSS) the city's storm sewer system can discharge.

Jordan Skiff, Director of Public Works, City of Fond du Lac

Wisconsin Budget Cuts

Wisconsin conservationists warned that Governor Walker's proposed budget cuts to the Wisconsin's agricultural programs could have a negative environmental effect especially following the recent spike in manure spills and runoff accidents.

Several of the proposed budget cuts would decrease the DNR staff that monitor and ensure that farmers meet environmental standards. The reduction in dollars for the development of safe manure management plans and limitation on research could have a negative environmental impact relating to agricultural runoff.

There has been a two-year spike in manure spills which has caused environmentalists to question the priorities of lawmakers.

"At a time when we've got expanding agriculture that is producing more liquid manure on a shrinking land base. . . the ability to respond to that pressure is going in the wrong direction," stated Jim Vanden Brook, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association..

Sheboygan Press, February 20, 2015

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Next LWQIA Meeting:
Wed., May 6 2015
7 p.m.
FDL City/County Building
160 S. Macy St.

Find us at ***www.lwqia.org***

Annual River Cleanup

The annual Fond du Lac River cleanup will take place on Saturday, April 25, 2015. Registration will begin at 8:30 AM at Lakeside Park West. Whatever the weather conditions, the cleanup will take place. To preregister you can either visit fdlco.wi.gov or call the Fond du Lac County Land and Water Conservation Department at 920. 923. 3033, extension 101.

The communitywide environmental cleanup project is being coordinated by the Fond du Lac County Land and Water Conservation Department in partnership with the Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance.

The project is aimed to get citizens involved in cleaning up local watersheds and waterways in the City of Fond du Lac. Volunteers will be assigned sections of the river shoreline to pick up trash. Shoreline trash not only reduces recreational activities, trash also degrades the environment for wildlife habitat.

Fond du Lac Reporter

Asian Crazy Worm

The Amynthas agrestis, or commonly known as the Asian crazy worm, has found its way into the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Arboretum. The worm native to the Japan and the Korea area is an invasive pest that has been in the eastern and southeast areas of the US for about five decades. It is suspected that the worms arrived in the US in the soil of landscape plantings.

Scientists are concerned because the Asian crazy worm appears to have been surviving Wisconsin's harsh winters. The worm gets its nick name because unlike other earthworms they wiggle and even jump. They also have a ferocious appetite. The Asian crazy worm reaches maturity in 60 days and can reproduce without a mate.

Glaciers from some 10,000 years ago eliminated all native earthworms from the Great Lakes region. After the glaciers receded the forests evolved without earthworms. Earthworms, and especially the Asian crazy worm, eat much of the organic spongy forest floor that the native plants need for nutrients.

Milwaukee-Wisconsin Journal Sentinel, Online

Algae Blooms Fuel More Algae

The freshwater growth of toxic cyanobacterial blooms are known to be promoted by fertilizers. Aquatic microbes have been shown to drive nitrogen and phosphorus cycling in lakes by a new study.

Fertilizer use, water extraction, septic systems and other human activities that manipulate watersheds typically leads to the presence of cyanobacteria.

Cyanobacteria are capable of tapping into reserves of nitrogen and phosphorus that are usually not assessable to phytoplankton. Many species of cyanobacteria have the ability to tap fixed dissolved nitrogen gas as a potential source of nitrogen. Other organisms can access pools of phosphorus in the lake sediments. Whether the source of the nitrogen is gas or lake sediments it can be released to the water column by the decomposing of organisms. The result is an increase in nutrients available for other microbes and phytoplankton.

Aquarius Systems Newsletter, February 2015

Creek Divides North America

Two Ocean Pass on the Great Divide located in the Teton Wilderness Area of Wyoming's Bridger-Teton National Forest Waters is an unusual hydrographic site.

Two Ocean Pass divides the headwaters of the Pacific Creek into two creeks making it the only creek in the United States that breaks and ends in two different oceans. Pacific Creek flows westerly to the Pacific Ocean whereas the Atlantic Creek flows easterly to the Atlantic Ocean.

Aquarius Systems Newsletter, February 2015