

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN**

Friends of the St. Croix Headwaters

And

Gordon/St. Croix Flowage Association

And

Upper St. Croix Lake Association

And

Barnes/Eau Claire Lakes Area Property Owners Association

And

University of Wisconsin Stevens Point Center for Watershed Science and Education

And

West Wisconsin Land Trust

And

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

(hereinafter referred to as Partners)

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishes a partnership between the Friends of the St. Croix Headwaters, Gordon/St. Croix Flowage Association, Upper St. Croix Lake Association, Barnes/Eau Claire Lakes Property Owners Association, University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point Center for Watershed Science and Education, West Wisconsin Land Trust, and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The Friends of the St. Croix Headwaters, Gordon/St. Croix Flowage Association, Upper St. Croix Lake Association, and Barnes/Eau Claire Lakes Area Property Owners Association are collectively referred to as the Upper St. Croix Watershed Alliance.

I. MISSION

Citizens working together to protect and improve water quality and habitat in the Upper St. Croix - Eau Claire Rivers watershed.

II. STUDY AREA AND BACKGROUND

The Upper St. Croix Watershed spans Douglas and Bayfield Counties, beginning at the St. Croix/Gordon Flowage Dam and extends upstream to Upper St. Croix Lake and its tributaries via the St. Croix River; to the Potawatomi area lakes in Barnes via Ox Creek; and to the Eau Claire Chain of Lakes and tributaries via the Eau Claire River (map attached).

In 2005 citizen conservation groups in the Upper St. Croix/Eau Claire Rivers Watershed were actively trying to understand and protect their piece of the watershed. These parallel, albeit isolated efforts, at grassroots conservation in a unique and historical part of Wisconsin warranted a cohesive and unified – or watershed approach. Thus, the Upper St. Croix Watershed Alliance was formed in May 2006 by river and lake organizations in Douglas County. Eventually the Alliance expanded to the true surface watershed boundaries spanning Bayfield County into the Barnes/Eau Claire Lakes area.

A series of monthly meetings was held from May through October 2006 to better understand watershed-level issues and priorities. One outcome of the 2006 Alliance efforts was consensus among the partners to apply for a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Lake (i.e. watershed) Protection grant that would provide the means to design and implement a watershed study and plan meeting the priorities the Alliance had identified.

III. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

A watershed-oriented approach to analysis, planning and action provides a superior framework for addressing not only water issues, but many social and other environmental issues as well. In recent years, this approach has been embraced by thousands of individuals, communities, businesses, organizations and agencies as the principal tool for environmental protection and resource management. (from the River Network)

The partners intend to collaborate, monitor, make decisions, and promote behaviors and policies that will protect, enhance, or restore the land and water within the Upper St. Croix Watershed.

- A. This project and partnership proposes:
1. To develop a hydrologic understanding of water resources in the Upper St Croix/Eau Claire Rivers Watershed to guide planning, protection, and implementation of best management practices
 2. To develop an understanding of lake and stream water quality locally and on a watershed scale to guide planning, protection and implementation of best management practices.
 3. To identify and protect critical habitat in the watershed.
 4. To develop guidelines for making land use decisions.
 5. To provide opportunities for information exchange and citizen participation.
 6. To develop a strategic plan to implement policy, protection, and restoration activities in the watershed.
- B. Each organization of this MOU is responsible for its own expenses, other than those activities included in the WDNR Lake Protection Grant proposal.

IV. RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Each partner will appoint at least one person to serve as the official contact and coordinate the activities of each organization in carrying out this MOU. The initial appointees of each organization are: Include contact information?
1. Friends of the St. Croix Headwaters: Scott Peterson
 2. Gordon /St. Croix Flowage Association: Bob Meltz
 3. Upper St. Croix Lake Association: Jim Heim and Tom Mowbray
 4. Barnes/Eau Claire Lakes Area Property Owners Association: John Kudlas, Lee Wiesner, and Paul LaLiberte
 5. University of Wisconsin Stevens Point Center for Watershed Science and Education: Nancy Turyk and Katherine Clancy
 6. West Wisconsin Land Trust: Jane Anklam
 7. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources: Pamela Toshner

- B. The organizations agree to the following tasks for this MOU:
1. Friends of the St. Croix Headwaters will: coordinate public participation meetings; recruit volunteer monitors; provide contact information to UWSP; assist with volunteer coordination; administer protection grant; and attend Alliance meetings
 2. Gordon/St. Croix Flowage Association will: recruit volunteer monitors and attend Alliance meetings
 3. Upper St. Croix Lake Association will: recruit volunteer monitors and attend Alliance meetings
 4. Barnes/Eau Claire Lakes Area Property Owners Association will: recruit volunteer monitors and Alliance meetings
 5. University of Wisconsin Stevens Point Center for Watershed Science and Education will: perform river, groundwater, and in-lake surface water quality monitoring and modeling; provide training and support for local volunteer monitors; participate in public information sessions; provide quarterly progress updates to the Alliance; provide annual report and presentation to the Alliance; and complete a final report with conclusions and recommendations suitable for watershed strategic planning activities
 6. West Wisconsin Land Trust will: provide information and educate property owners about conservation opportunities and facilitate permanent land protection; attend Alliance meetings
 7. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources will: identify critical habitat on at least fifteen lakes and the St. Croix and Eau Claire Rivers; assist with meeting facilitation; coordinate federal project participation; provide technical oversight assist with surface water monitoring; and attend Alliance meetings
 8. All organizations will: collaborate with project partners, local constituents and leaders; be represented at regular meetings; and spread the Alliance word

V. MILESTONES

As a part of this MOU the partners agree to continually identify and monitor the status of project milestones. The milestones, grouped by task, responsibility, goal for completion, and status will be a dynamic attachment to the MOU.

VI. ATTACHMENTS

- A. Milestones
- B. Upper St. Croix Watershed Map
- C. Monitoring sites and schedule
- D. Volunteer job description
- E. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources monitoring detail

VII. TERMS OF UNDERSTANDING

The term of this MOU is for the duration of the lake protection grant, which is proposed to be completed December 31, 2010. This agreement may be extended upon majority consensus of the partners. It shall be reviewed at least every three months to ensure that it is fulfilling its purpose and to make necessary revisions. Consensus among partners built this project, and thus, the preference is that organizations will appoint an alternative representative instead of terminating this MOU.

VIII. AUTHORIZATION

The signing of this MOU is not a formal undertaking. It implies that the signatories will strive to reach, to the best of their ability, the objectives stated in the MOU.

On behalf of the organization I represent, I wish to sign this MOU and contribute to its further development.

Name: **Scott Peterson**
Title: **President**
Organization: **Friends of the St. Croix Headwaters**

Name: **Ron Tuverson**
Title: **President**
Organization: **Gordon/St. Croix Flowage Association**

Name: **Lynne Nason**
Title: **President**
Organization: **Upper St. Croix Lake Association**

Name: **Lee Wiesner**
Title: **President**
Organization: **Barnes/Eau Claire Lakes Area Property Owners Association**

Name: **Nancy Turyk**
Title: **Water Resource Scientist**
Organization: **University of Wisconsin Stevens Point Center for Watershed Science and Education**

Name: **Rick Gauger**
Title: **Executive Director**
Organization: **West Wisconsin Land Trust**

Name: **Kathy Bartilson**
Title: **St. Croix Basin Supervisor**
Organization: **Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources**