



Upper St. Croix Watershed

July 27, 2006 Planning Meeting Activities List (when, who, what/where)

Representatives from Douglas County Conservation (DCC), Friends of the St. Croix Headwaters (FOTSCH), Gordon/St. Croix Flowage Association (GSCFA), National Park Service (NPS), Upper St. Croix Lake Association (USCLA), River Alliance of Wisconsin (RAW), UW-Extension - St. Croix Basin (UW-EX), Village of Solon Springs (VSS), West Wisconsin Land Trust (WWLT), and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) met to list recent, current, and planned activities for each of seven prioritized watershed issues.

Monitoring. More water monitoring data needed across the three water bodies, Eau Claire River, and Ox Creek. Need a plan to consistently gather data across the watershed.

Recent and Current Activities:

1994-2006	USCLA	Self-help lake monitoring on Upper St. Croix Lake (USCL) – water chemistry and Secchi data ⁽¹⁾
199x-2006	USCLA	Purple Loosestrife (PL) identification and control on USCL
1997-1998	GSCFA	Self-help lake monitoring on SCF – water chemistry data
1994-97, 2005-2006	GSCFA	Self-help lake monitoring on SCF – Secchi data
2000x-2006	GSCFA	Purple Loosestrife (PL) identification and control on St. Croix Flowage (SCF)
Jun 2005-Oct 2005	FOTSCH	Fifteen volunteers doing monthly WAV monitoring at nine river sites on SCR, lower EC, and lower OC riffles
Jun 2005-Oct 2005	FOTSCH	Water chemistry testing by volunteers and UW-SP staff/students at seven sites on SCR from USCL outlet to Highway 53 bridge, lower EC, and lower OC riffles ⁽²⁾
Jun 2005-Aug 2006	FOTSCH USCLA	Purple Loosestrife (PL) identification and control on SCR
Summer 2005	DCHD USCLA	E. coli detected on USCL
Summer 2005	GSCFA	Clean-boats/clean-water boat inspections at two landings on SCF
Aug 2005	FOTSCH GSCFA	Crayfish survey on SCR, lower EC, and SCF
Fall 2005	USCLA	Toxic blue-green algae detected on USCL (sampling inconclusive)
2005	DNR	Baseline monitoring on OC for cold/cool water game and forage fish
May 2006-Jun 2006	FOTSCH	E. coli monitoring at eight sites on USCL
May 2006-Sep 2006	FOTSCH	Six volunteers certified and doing Citizen-Based Monitoring Pilot Program (level-2) monitoring at three sites on SCR and lower EC
May 2006-Oct 2006	FOTSCH	Twelve volunteers doing monthly WAV monitoring at seven river sites on SCR, and on Lower Eau Claire

May 2006-Oct 2006	FOTSCH USCLA	Thirteen volunteers (including 6 students) doing monthly WAV monitoring on nine stream tributaries around USCL
May 2006-Oct 2006	FOTSCH	Water chemistry testing by volunteers and UW-SP staff/students at eight sites on SCR from USCL outlet to Highway 53 bridge, lower EC, and lower OC riffles (also, continuous temperature data loggers and pressure transducers were installed) ⁽³⁾
May 2006-Oct 2006	FOTSCH	Water chemistry testing by volunteers and UW-Stevens Point staff/students at sites on eight stream tributaries around USCL (also, continuous temperature data loggers and pressure transducers were installed)
June 2006	FOTSCH	Sludge sample near SCR cranberry bog discharge tested for pesticides and metals
Jun 2006-Oct 2006	FOTSCH USCLA DNR	Crayfish species identification on USCL and tributaries Note: Rusty crayfish discovered on USCL, Park Creek, and Catlin Creek
July 2006-Oct 2007	FOTSCH	Water quality index-based reporting approach being pilot tested
Fall 2006	USCLA	Toxic blue-green algae monitoring on USCL
2006	DNR	Continuous temperature data loggers placed on EC
2006	USDA	Lower Ox Lake and OC studies and mitigation, including Beaver work to increase Wild Rice production
2006	GSCFA	Self-help lake monitoring on SCF
2006	DCC DNR	Upper OC water temperature monitoring and trout habitat restoration

Planned Activities:

Oct 2006-Jun 2007	USCLA	USCL subwatershed surface and ground water model data-gathering ⁽⁴⁾ <i>[Not yet funded - grant applied for]</i>
Jan 2007-Jun 2007	FOTSCH	Water chemistry testing by volunteers and UW-SP staff/students on SCR from USCL outlet to Highway 53 bridge, lower Eau Claire, and lower OC riffles <i>[Funded]</i>
May 2007-Oct 2007	FOTSCH	Twelve volunteers doing monthly WAV monitoring at seven river sites on SCR and on Lower EC <i>[Funded]</i>
May 2007-Oct 2007	FOTSCH USCLA	Thirteen volunteers (including 6 students) doing monthly WAV monitoring on nine stream tributaries around USCL <i>[Funded]</i>
2007	DCFD	Participation in stream monitoring/assessment <i>[Not yet funded]</i>
2007	DNR	OC Brook trout stocking, habitat improvement, forage fish and natural reproduction studies <i>[Funded]</i>

Phosphorus and aquatic vegetation level. Phosphorus levels in St. Croix system increasing, algae blooms, and aquatic growth. ID and find out more about toxic testing (blue-green algae).

1994-Present	USCLA	Self-help lake monitoring on Upper St. Croix Lake (USCL) ⁽¹⁾ Note: Phosphorus levels in USCL have been increasing since Self-help monitoring started in 1994
Jun 2005-Oct 2005	FOTSCH	Measured total Phosphorus levels at USCL outlet and SCR ⁽²⁾
May 2006-Oct 2006	FOTSCH	Measured total Phosphorus levels at USCL outlet and SCR ⁽³⁾
Oct 2006-Jun 2007	USCLA	USCL watershed project described under "Monitoring" priority ⁽⁴⁾ <i>[Not yet funded - grant applied for]</i>

Road run-off and faulty culverts. Run-off from roads is a problem in some areas. Culverts may be poorly placed or misaligned. Need culvert inventory and rating scale. Notes: add boat landings and use “fish friendly passages” description for culvert discussion.

Currently Under Discussion:

	Watershed Group	Investigate what other watersheds are doing (e.g. culvert inventory and assessment system used by Bad River Watershed Association)
	Watershed Group	Invite speakers from Bad River, NRCS, DNR, County, etc. to talk about culvert and fish friendly passage standards
	Watershed Group	Investigate early 2000's FEMA data after 100-year floods
	Watershed Group	Investigate ways to work with Towns, Villages, and County departments and committees to support public agencies responsible for culverts Note: LCC now requiring that culverts replaced within priority watershed be done to their specifications
	Watershed Group	Investigate ways to work with DCC regarding guidance and funding fish friendly passages within watershed
	VSS	Mitigation of storm run-offs on Main Street boat landing on USCL being studied as part of BMP planning for comprehensive stormwater run-off plan

Cranberry operations. Want to know are there any impacts of surface and ground water degradation caused by cranberry operations in Gordon.

Jun 2005-Oct 2005	FOTSCH	WAV and water chemistry testing on SCR upstream and downstream from cranberry bog described under “Monitoring” priority ⁽²⁾
May 2006-Oct 2006	FOTSCH	WAV and water chemistry testing on SCR upstream and downstream from cranberry bog described under “Monitoring” priority ⁽³⁾
Jun 2006	FOTSCH	Sludge sample near cranberry bog discharge tested for pesticides and heavy metals

Apr-Jun 2007	FOTSCH	Testing upstream and downstream from SCR cranberry bog discharge including sediment and semi-permeable membrane device sampling for pesticides and metals, and water chemistry testing <i>[Funded]</i>
2007	FOTSCH	Plan to pursue discussions with Gardner Cranberry LCC and NRCS regarding possible use of tail-water recovery (closed-loop) system for cranberry operations <i>[Not yet funded]</i>

Water level of St. Croix Flowage. Level is at all time low. Is dam being managed properly?

Currently Under Discussion:

	GSCFA DNR	Determination of Gordon Dam operational jurisdiction and dam management rules Note: Need to check if elevation marker on dam is correct
	GSCFA	Would like to invite Mark Schroeder (DCFD) to speak at future watershed planning meeting about dam management
	GSCFA	Would like to know if additional material available from Dr. Jack Zaengle "Fluctuating Lake Levels" study (UW-Superior)

Old septic systems. Are old septic systems affecting water quality? Graywater not always treated. Note: add point pollution sources.

Currently Under Discussion:

	USCLA	Graywater sometimes routed directly to USCL rather than sewer line
	VSS	Concern that Mobil station and other identified point sources are polluting ground water
	Watershed Group	Private on-site wastewater treatment systems (POWTS) are being monitored by a Douglas County Committee. Would like to obtain a Committee update.

Modeling. How land use and water interact. Create proactive "what if" models from that.

Currently Under Discussion:

	FOTSCH	Water chemistry testing in OC, SCR, and EC subwatersheds requires watershed model for monitoring framework
	Watershed Group	Provide planning information/data to UW-SP staff to support the development of DNR Lake Protection Grant application narrative
	Watershed Group	Group needs to keep "all doors open" to identify and be supportive of additional watershed issues as they are identified
	GSCFA	Need comprehensive SCF aquatic vegetation survey and analysis
	Watershed Group	Need watershed level effort to monitor groundwater to locate sources of point and non-point discharges

Abbreviations:

BMP – Best Management Practice
CBMPP – Citizen-Based Monitoring Partnership Program (level-2) Pilot Project
DCC – Douglas County Conservationist
DCFD – Douglas County Forestry Department
DCHD – Douglas County Health Department
DNR – Department of Natural Resources
EC – Eau Claire River
FOTSCH – Friends of the St. Croix Headwaters
GSCFA – Gordon/St. Croix Flowage Association
LWRMP – Land and Water Resource Management Plan (2005)
LCC – Land Conservation Committee (Douglas County)
NRCS – Natural Resources Conservation Service (US Department of Agriculture)
OC – Ox Creek
PWP – Priority Watershed Project (1997)
SCF – St. Croix Flowage
SCR – St. Croix River headwaters segment
USCL – Upper St. Croix Lake
USCLA – Upper St. Croix Lake Association
USDA – United States Department of Agriculture
UW-EX – University of Wisconsin-Extension
UW-SP – University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
VSS – Village of Solon Springs
WAV – Water Action Volunteer (level-1) citizen-monitoring program supported by UW-EX
WWLT – West Wisconsin Land Trust