

EPA, DNR Amend 2002 Lake Cleanup Plan

By Susan Pastor, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

A more balanced cleanup plan of capping, sand covering and dredging is the new cleanup approach U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources will be taking on Little Lake Butte des Morts according to a June 12 decision.

The new plan, referred to as an amended record of decision, replaces a previous one for the lake approved by EPA and Wisconsin DNR in 2002. Also known as Operable Unit 1, Little Lake Butte des Morts will still have a cleanup that involves dredging as in the 2002 plan, however, the new plan adds capping to allow for a faster cleanup at a lower cost.

“After reviewing the results of over 6,300 sediment samples taken since 2004, we think this is the best way to go,” said EPA Remedial Project Manager Jim Hahnenberg. “Adding a capping component will reduce the time to complete the cleanup by five years while still providing protection to people and the environment.”

He added that 70 percent of the contaminated sediment has already been dredged over the past four years under the 2002 cleanup plan. The addition of sand covers and caps will continue to meet the agencies’ cleanup objectives while protecting people and the environment. Fish advisories and regular monitoring of PCBs in sediment, water and fish tissue will remain in effect.

Glatfelter, WTM I and Menasha Corp., the paper companies responsible for the PCB contamination, are expected to voluntarily continue to pay for the cleanup under the new decision.

EPA, in consultation with Wisconsin DNR, made its decision to revise the cleanup plan after evaluating input from about 60 people during its comment period which ran from Nov. 26, 2007 to Jan. 31, 2008.

The amended record of decision will be available at the information repositories and administrative record locations listed on Page 7 and online at www.epa.gov/region5/sites/foxriver.



PHOTO COURTESY OF LITTLE LAKE CLEANUP TEAM WEB SITE

Sand placement equipment includes a spreader that delivers sand similar to how a snow plow spreads salt.

Little Lake Butte des Morts Dredging To Be Completed This Summer

By Susan Pastor, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

With the last of the dredging underway, a portion of the Little Lake Butte des Morts cleanup is on track to be completed by July.

Dredging 40,000 cubic yards of PCB-contaminated sediment resumed in April. According to EPA Remedial Project Manager Jim Hahnenberg, when dredging is finished by the end of June, that portion of the cleanup of Little Lake Butte des Morts will be done. Work will continue using gravel/sand caps and sand covers mainly in the central part of the lake.

“The remaining work for this year includes dredging around and north of the Highway 441 Bridge,” he explained. “We expect all of that to be done by late fall.”

Two hydraulic dredges will operate from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. six days per week completing the work by July. Sediment and water will be pumped into large plastic “geotubes” in a staging area near the shore by the bridge. There, sediment will be dried out and taken to a state-licensed landfill in Chilton for proper disposal.

See Little Lake Butte, Page 6

Information Kiosks Vandalized

By Jessica Maloney, Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services

Vandals recently struck some new information kiosks that were installed along the Lower Fox River in the past year. The glass-enclosed stations, which host updated information on fish advisories and cleanup operations on the Lower Fox River, have suffered broken glass and one was reportedly stolen.

These kiosks are an essential part of public information concerning the river. News is updated routinely by local parks and health departments. If you notice any tampering or active vandalism of these signs, please report it to the local police department. Vandalism is a crime and people can be prosecuted for this offense.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TIM MIRKES, CITY OF APPLETON HEALTH DEPT. Information kiosks installed along the Lower Fox River have been vandalized.

EPA, DNR Put Some River Work On Hold

By Susan Pastor, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Since sediment with the highest levels of PCBs has been removed from the Lower Fox River below the DePere Dam, the remainder of contaminated sediment will temporarily remain in place.

After last year's cleanup in the reach of the river from DePere to the mouth of Green Bay was completed, it was decided to leave lower levels of contaminated sediment behind until the rest of the cleanup "catches up."

According to EPA Remedial Project Manager Jim Hahnenberg, EPA and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources agreed to combine completion of the "residual" contamination with the overall cleanup. "We plan to do more dredging and using sand covers and caps in 2011," he explained. "We'll roll this into the rest of the cleanup when other actions move downstream to the area below the DePere Dam in 2011 rather than clean it up now and risk recontaminating the area later on."

The agencies believe this is the best approach since the remaining levels have been greatly reduced in the area and are similar to the rest of the river areas that have not yet been addressed.

"We decided it would make more sense to let the larger project catch up," he continued. "We'll be back there in 2011."

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Out and About...

By Susan Pastor, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

The Fox River Intergovernmental Partnership is made up of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin and Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin. These partners, as well as other supporting agencies, regularly provide speakers to organizations in the Fox Valley area. The following people recently made presentations:

April

- ◆ *Jennifer Hill-Kelley and Betsy Galbraith*, Oneida Tribe: Department of Interior Natural Resource Damage Assessment Program workshop, Phoenix, AZ; restoring the environment, sustaining Oneida.

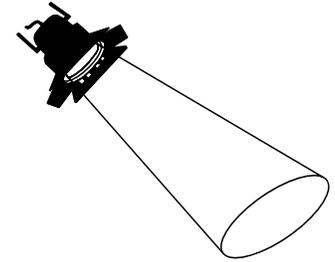
May

- ◆ *Greg Hill*, DNR: University of Wisconsin Infusing Sustainability into College Curricula workshop, Oshkosh; general Lower Fox River cleanup and local environmental issues.

The Fox River Current is featuring promising natural resource damage assessment projects in and near the Lower Fox River.

Spotlight On: Leicht Memorial Park

By Colette Charbonneau, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



The city of Green Bay created a waterfront location along the west bank of the Lower Fox River for downtown picnicking, community special events and watercraft-oriented activities. Leicht Memorial Park includes a walkway along the river, a boat dock that can be used as a canoe-kayak launch and a fishing pier. At the park's dedication, Green Bay Mayor Jim Schmitt said it was a great day for the community. "In years to come, this park will be a focal point for culture, celebrations and family fun," he stated. "It's the perfect place to bring people together to enjoy our city's beautiful riverfront."

Leicht Memorial Park can be found along Dousman Street on the west side of Ray Nitschke Memorial



City of Green Bay creates new park area along the west bank of the Lower Fox River.

Bridge. Several community special events already have been held at the park including International Bayfest, the Tall Ship Festival and the Fire Over the Fox fireworks show.

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Spotlight *from Page 4*

This valuable piece of property was donated by Russ Leicht and his mother, Margaret, for use as a public park. Over its 100-year history, Leicht Transfer & Storage Co. has employed thousands of people from the community to fill warehousing and distribution positions.

The Fox River/Green Bay Natural Resource Trustee Council approved this project as part of the Fort James/Georgia-Pacific final natural resource damage assessment and restoration agreement. The natural resource-based, public-use projects provide recreation and enjoyment related to aquatic habitats that are similar to those damaged by the presence of PCBs in and around the Lower Fox River and Green Bay. These types of projects are expected to bring people to the river and bay for their pleasure and to gain appreciation of the resource so they will want to protect it into the future.

The natural resource trustees are comprised of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources,

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, Michigan Attorney General, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Michigan Department of Natural Resources and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

For further information on NRDA projects, contact Trustee Council Coordinator Colette Charbonneau, FWS, at Colette_Charbonneau@fws.gov or at 920-866-1726.



Leicht Memorial Park will be a focal point for community events.

EPA To Review Cleanup Progress

By Susan Pastor, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

A formal review of the Lower Fox River project will begin this fall to determine if current cleanup measures are effective.

Under the Superfund law, cleanups are reviewed every five years at sites where cleanup activity is still underway or where some levels of contaminants were left behind limiting a site's use. Although the review, which is due by August 2009, will include all reaches of the Lower Fox River and Green Bay, the 2004 construction startup in Little Lake Butte des Morts (also referred to as Operable Unit 1) started the five-year cycle.

EPA Remedial Project Manager Jim Hahnenberg will be leading the review. "We want to know if the cleanup is being protective or not," he explained. "Of course, we're not done yet, so we are just checking in on the site's progress."

This five-year review will be a snapshot of the conditions of the site with an eye toward

protection. Hahnenberg will do a physical site inspection, look at the information that has been gathered so far, re-evaluate current conditions and make some general observations. The findings and some recommendations on what needs to be done will be assembled and put into a report that will be available to the public next summer.

"It's highly unlikely we're going to discover something we didn't already know," he said. "The purpose of these reviews is to ensure the site is safe and the cleanup continues to protect people and the environment."

During these reviews, EPA typically looks at project files, any changes in surrounding land use, new field inspections and the history of local community involvement.

Hahnenberg concluded, "Citizen input will be welcome when the review starts."

Little Lake Butte *from Page 2*

Areas in the lake that cannot be dredged will be cleaned up next year using 6-inch sand covers or a combination of sand and gravel caps. Sand covers in various parts of the lake and sand and gravel caps in the northern portion of the lake will be installed in areas where dredging is not feasible. Hahnenberg said when that work is done in 2009, the Little Lake Butte des Morts cleanup is expected to be deemed complete.

"We were on a six-year schedule to complete the lake cleanup and it looks like we are going to meet that goal."

EPA, DNR Put *from Page 3*

Work plans are being developed and equipment is being ordered now so work can begin downstream in late spring 2009. This will include the reach from Little Rapids (also known as Deposit DD) and above the DePere Dam (referred to as Operable Unit 3) and above the dam (part of Operable Unit 4). These portions of the river cleanup are expected to be finished by fall 2009.

In 2010, final cleanup activities will resume downstream and move north of the dam.

Information Available at Local Libraries

The Intergovernmental Partners invite the public to review technical reports, fact sheets and other documents related to the Lower Fox River cleanup at information repositories set up in the reference sections of the local libraries listed below. Information repositories at the public libraries in De Pere, Kaukauna, Little Chute, Neenah and Wrightstown have been discontinued. However, binders containing fact sheets and newsletters are being maintained at these locations as well as at the following repositories:

- **Appleton Public Library**, 225 N. Oneida St., Appleton, Wis.; 920-832-6170
- **Brown County Library**, 515 Pine St., Green Bay, Wis.; 920-448-4381, Ext. 394
- **Door County Library**, 107 S. Fourth Ave., Sturgeon Bay, Wis.; 920-743-6578
- **Oneida Community Library**, 201 Elm St., Oneida, Wis.; 920-869-2210
- **Oshkosh Public Library**, 106 Washington Ave., Oshkosh, Wis.; 920-236-5205



Check out these Web sites:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/wm/foxriver/index.html>

<http://www.epa.gov/region5/sites/foxriver>

<http://contaminants.fws.gov/Issues/Restoration.cfm>

<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/nrda/index.html>

An administrative record, which contains detailed information upon which the selection of the final site cleanup plan was based, is also available for review at two DNR offices: 801 E. Walnut St., Green Bay, Wis. and 101 S. Webster St., 3rd Floor, Madison, Wis. An administrative record is also available at the EPA Record Center, 77 W. Jackson Blvd., 7th Floor, Chicago, Ill.



Prepared by the Fox River Intergovernmental Partnership: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Supporting agencies include Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in these articles are solely those of the authors and are not necessarily shared by all members of the Fox River Intergovernmental Partnership.

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Fox River Current is published quarterly by the Fox River Intergovernmental Partnership. Its purpose is to provide up-to-date information about cleanup and restoration efforts on the Lower Fox River. Call Susan Pastor at 312-353-1325 to request a subscription or alternative format. Feedback on articles and ideas for future issues are welcome. Send comments to Susan Pastor, EPA Office of Superfund (P-19J), 77 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604 or e-mail pastor.susan@epa.gov.



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