

Little Lake Butte des Morts Cleanup Is Done

By Susan Pastor, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

After six years, the Little Lake Butte des Morts cleanup has been deemed complete.

The last of the sand covers and caps were placed in the water near Strobe Island in late April and early May. Contractors for WTM I and Glatfelter, the companies responsible for the cleanup, used sand to cover about 6.5 acres of sediment and a rock/gravel, or armored, cap over another 31 acres in the bottom of the lake. Extra care was taken to ensure that eagles nesting in the area were not disturbed.

The heavier armored cap was used in areas that had higher levels of PCBs. The sand and gravel was laid using two “spreaders” parked in the lake. Two floating pipelines near Butte des Morts Beach Road, where one of the project’s staging areas was located, brought the material to the site. The cover and cap work started south of the island and moved north until it was completed in mid May.

“We were optimistic that the cleanup would be finished by July, and it was,” said U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Remedial Project Manager Jim Hahnenberg. “All that is left to do now is to restore the on-shore facility used for the project to its original state.”

The equipment in the river that area residents looked at for five years has already been removed. The staging areas are being restored and should be back to their original conditions by the end of the year. In addition to the Butte des Morts Beach Road area, there is another located on North Lake Street. Native wetland plants and some drainage improvements may also occur next year.

According to Hahnenberg, Glatfelter and WTM I are committed to conducting regular monitoring to document improvements in the surface water and fish and to ensure that the covers and caps are working. “EPA and DNR will continue to oversee their work, but



PHOTO COURTESY OF LITTLE LAKE CLEANUP TEAM

This area, now cleared and covered with red clay, was formerly used to store tubes and equipment for sediment dewatering operations.

the companies should be commended for their efforts in cleaning up this portion of the river,” Hahnenberg added.

Dredging in the lake was completed a year ago with 370,500 cubic yards of contaminated sediment taken out. “You could compare that to a 20-story high tower covering an area about the size of a football field,” Hahnenberg explained. “It was a lot of sediment.”

After dredged sediment was dried just south of state Route 441 on the west side of the lake, it was trucked to landfills licensed to accept hazardous waste. Sediment with lower levels of PCBs was taken to a facility in Chilton while highly contaminated sediment was transported to a landfill near Detroit.

Further information on the project can be found at <http://www.littlelakecleanup.com>.

Green Bay Area Dredging Continues

By Susan Pastor, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Three dredges are operating on schedule five days per week as they remove PCB-contaminated sediment from the Lower Fox River.

One 12-inch and two 8-inch hydraulic dredges have been working around the clock since April 28 to remove an average of about 4,000 cubic yards of sediment daily. According to EPA Remedial Project Manager Jim Hahnenberg, the project is on schedule to remove at least 460,000 cubic yards of sediment.

“We should be able to meet our goal for 2009,” Hahnenberg continued. “Each cubic yard of sediment is three by three by three feet,” he explained. “This is about the size of a small refrigerator.”

At press time, dredging was ongoing north of Little Rapids using the 8-inch dredges. Simultaneously, the larger dredge is operating downstream from DePere doing “production dredging” from DePere to Green Bay. Production dredging entails working in areas with thicker zones of contaminated sediment permitting the removal of more sediment. Sediment upstream of DePere is thinner so dredging in those areas is typically slower.

With the exception of sediment near Green Bay’s shoreline staging area referred to as the “Shell property” at 1611 State St., dredged sediment will contain levels of PCBs less than the 50 parts per million cutoff.

“Landfills in Wisconsin can only accept waste less than 50 ppm,” Hahnenberg continued. “Most of the sediment dredged this year will have PCB levels less than that. Sediment over 50 ppm is being transported to Wayne Disposal near Detroit. This is the closest facility that is licensed to accept highly contaminated sediment.” Sediment with PCBs lower than 50 ppm is being trucked to the Veolia Hickory Meadows Landfill in Chilton, about 33 to 37 miles away. The companies doing the cleanup—Appleton Papers Inc., Georgia-Pacific and NCR Corp.—coordinated routes with the local communities.

All dredged sediment is being pumped into the dewatering facility on State Street via a pipeline. There, the water is being squeezed out of the sediment by equipment called plate and frame presses. The remaining dried sediment is being loaded onto a truck for disposal.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BOLDT TEAM

A 12-inch dredge is used to removed PCB-contaminated sediment downstream from DePere.

Dredging is scheduled to continue into November, Hahnenberg explained. “Based on our experience at the Lower Fox River and other dredging projects in the Midwest, weather doesn’t let us work past early November. The cold temperatures and freezing conditions usually make operations unsafe.”

Michigan Agencies Leave Trustee Council

By Susan Pastor, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

The three Michigan “co-trustees” for the Lower Fox River/Green Bay Trustee Council have withdrawn from the memorandum of agreement which originally established the council in 1997.

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and Michigan Department of Attorney General notified the other trustees in late April that they were withdrawing from formal participation. In their letter, they said they

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Trustee Council Earmarks Over \$2 Million for New Projects

By Colette Charbonneau, US Fish and Wildlife Service

The Fox River/Green Bay Natural Resource Trustee Council approved 14 restoration projects at a public meeting on Thursday, Aug. 13. Funding for the projects, totaling over \$2 million, comes from the 2004 \$3 million P.H. Glatfelter Co./WTM I interim settlement and the 2004 Fort James/Georgia-Pacific final settlement.

Approved projects include:

- \$12,475 for the installation of a handicapped accessible fishing wharf along the Fox River at Sunset Park in the village of Kimberly.
- \$182,000 for the construction of a rock shoal or breakwater in Lake Poygan to protect and restore six acres of native giant reed grass beds, locally known as cane beds.
- \$42,000 for the restoration of lake sturgeon spawning habitat in the lower Menominee River.
- \$140,000 to increase the genetic variation and abundance of the native muskellunge (spotted musky) in Green Bay.
- \$18,000 for the placement of bald eagle nesting structures near wetlands on Oneida lands.
- \$2,400 for the construction and placement of Forster's Tern nesting platforms along the west shore of Green Bay.
- \$425,000 to restore natural stream shape and riparian (river bank) habitat in three river reaches along the South Branch of the Suamico River.
- \$16,400 for the construction of a timber-log structure to protect wetland habitat from wind-driven and boat-driven waves on Lake Puckaway.
- \$200,000 to continue establishing riparian buffers along intermittent and perennial streams in the Suamico and Little Suamico watersheds.
- \$15,000 for the restoration of stream habitat in Duck Creek.
- \$80,000 to improve native brook trout habitat in Trout Creek at the 17th hole on the Brown County Golf Course.
- \$660,000 to protect critical acres of stream habitat and riparian wetlands.
- \$189,139 to finalize restoration and enhancement work at the Uihlein Waterfowl Production Area.
- \$189,000 to preserve lowland hardwoods habitat along the west shore of Green Bay.

"Every project approved by the Trustee Council will be

completed with leveraged funds from other sources or in-kind services," stated Oneida Nation Environmental Specialist and Trustee Council Technical Team Member Betsy Galbraith.

In other news, two new members were recently appointed to the Trustee Council. Tehassi Hill, Oneida Business Committee, and Kenneth Fish, Menominee Tribal Legislator, were appointed as representatives for the Oneida and Menominee Nations.

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, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.



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:

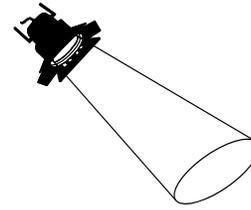
May

- ◆ *Jim Hahnenberg*, EPA: Green Bay Area Retired Men's Club, Green Bay; general Lower Fox River cleanup.

June

- ◆ *Jim Hahnenberg*, EPA: EPA's National Sediment Forum, Atlanta; "What I Learned from 16 Years in the Mud."

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



Spotlight On:

Wolf River Bottoms Wildlife Area – Herb Behnke Unit

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

After five years of steady progress on the restoration project being conducted on the Herb Behnke Unit, the dike system has been restored and water control structures have been added or replaced. The water control structures allow a wildlife biologist to raise and lower water levels in areas surrounded by the dikes. Water levels on the land can now be managed to promote wetland habitat for wildlife. The Herb Behnke Unit (formerly known as the K&S Unit) is part of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' Wolf River Bottoms Wildlife Area.

The Lower Fox River/Green Bay Natural Resource Trustee Council funded the restoration project to support waterfowl and piscivorous (fish-eating) bird habitat development. Waterfowl and fish-eating birds such as terns, herons and eagles were harmed by the release of PCBs into the Lower Fox River and Green Bay. Waterfowl consumption advisories continue to be posted for mallard ducks harvested along the Lower Fox River and lower Green Bay. The restoration project selected for funding on the Herb Behnke Unit will help restore healthy populations of birds in the Green Bay watershed. Also, the restored habitat provides hunting opportunities for duck hunters who no longer hunt along the Lower Fox River and lower Green Bay due to the waterfowl consumption advisory. Hunters will be able to eat the birds they



PHOTO COURTESY OF KAY BROCKMAN-MEDERAS, WISCONSIN DNR

Healthy bird populations, including pied-billed grebes, are being restored in the Green Bay watershed.

harvest from the Herb Behnke Unit without concerns about consuming PCBs.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources staff removed woody vegetation from all the dikes, repaired muskrat damage on the dikes, repaired water control

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structures and rebuilt sections of the dike system that needed more than normal maintenance.

“When the property was purchased by Wisconsin DNR in the early 1990s, nearly the entire dike system was in need of improvement,” stated Kay Brockman-Medera, Wisconsin DNR wildlife biologist. “Several miles of dike improvements were needed in order to effectively manage the entire wetland complex on the unit.”

Wildlife biologists are now able to manipulate water levels on approximately 2,000 acres of habitat. Water can now be made available during dry periods increasing the success of nesting waterfowl, allowing for control of invasive exotic plants such as purple loosestrife, and providing for protected areas during fall and spring bird migrations.

“Diversity of species using the property has increased,” Brockman-Medera expounded. “We have more osprey nesting in the area, a bald eagle nest, growing black-crowned and great blue heron rookeries (colonies), black tern populations are increasing, more wood ducks are found and the first trumpeter swan pair to hatch cygnets (baby swans) in Outagamie County.”

In 2007, the footprint of the Herb Behnke Unit increased with the acquisition of 974 acres adjacent to the Wisconsin DNR Wildlife Area. The purchase of the property was supported by the trustee council and funded with Fox River/Green Bay natural resource damage assessment restoration settlement funds. The land includes more than a mile of frontage on the Wolf River and several marshes considered to be prime spawning habitat for walleye.

The Herb Behnke Unit is open to the public. Various recreational

opportunities can be enjoyed including hunting, trapping, hiking, wildlife viewing, bird watching and berry picking. Load up your family and head to the wildlife area just five miles north of Shiocton on County Highway M for some outdoor fun. A map of the unit can be found at www.dnr.state.wi.us/maps/WM/NER/7920lwrbsrawrbwahrbbehnke.pdf

The natural resource trustees are comprised of Wisconsin DNR, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin 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.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOB CLARK, WISCONSIN DNR PILOT

Wetlands are being restored on approximately 2,000 acres and the Herb Behnke Unit's footprint has increased greatly during the 5-year project.

Natural Resource Trustee Coordinator Steps Down

By Susan Pastor, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Nearly eight years ago, Trustee Council Coordinator Colette Charbonneau arrived in Green Bay from Minneapolis/St. Paul. As the new trustee representative for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Charbonneau's job was to help oversee restoration projects in partnership with the other trustee agencies—Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin and Menomonee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin.

Eighty one projects later, Charbonneau is moving West. As she prepares to serve in the Department of the Interior's Restoration Support Unit in Denver, Charbonneau, 45, fondly looks back on her many accomplishments in Green Bay.

"I was involved in some really good restoration projects," said the Bloomer, Wis. native. "I learned about Green Bay ecosystems and Great Lakes fisheries."

Charbonneau, who has worked for FWS for 20 years, said she is especially proud of all the restoration that has been done at the grass roots level. "I worked with sport fishermen and wildlife groups to write the best proposals possible and to get them the money to see them through," she explained. "It's phenomenal what they've done."

Calling herself the "hub of the wheel," Charbonneau said she is particularly pleased with the amount of funding and caliber of projects she helped oversee. "This includes the native fish we stocked and the habitat we restored," she continued. "When you build an island and next year the terns come, wow, I can say I had a part in that."

Charbonneau believes she has put her degrees to good use during her long career. She holds a bachelor's degree in wildlife management from University of Wisconsin—Stevens Point and a master's degree in fisheries and wildlife from University of Missouri—Columbia. However, when she was asked to write articles for the *Fox River Current*, she was up for this new challenge. "I learned different types of writing," she stated. "I can tell people what is going on while getting rid of the bureaucracy. Upper management and Congress, as well as the public, just want to hear the story, not the science behind it. And, they want it in understandable language."

While this newsletter provided a "nice outlet" for her, she used her new experience to inspire others. "A college student even interviewed me about writing for my job," she said.

When she wasn't writing about her job, she was busy doing it. From developing good working relationships within tribal staff to promoting the many restoration projects the trustees funded, Charbonneau was in front of the public as often as possible. "I tried to find every possible way to get people jazzed up about what we're doing here," she continued. "While doing that, I gained a deeper respect from working with tribal nations."

Her colleagues who work with tribes agree that she has a knack when working in this area. "Colette integrates the culture into the NRDA process," said Betsy Galbraith, Oneida's environmental project manager. "She understands that damages mean something different to a tribe than they do to the general public. She has been integral to the success of our restoration efforts. Her departure is a big loss."

Charbonneau settled into her new job on Aug. 24. She said she expected it to be similar to what she had been doing, but on a national level. "I will be working more

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PHOTO COURTESY OF TOM TURNER, WISCONSIN DNR

Colette Charbonneau and Samantha.

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on national policy for restoration,” she stated. “That’s the biggest difference. I’ll be doing more outreach and more work on web pages—whatever someone needs help with.”

While not necessarily a promotion for Charbonneau, she looks forward to working with new partners as well as continuing relationships with former ones including U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. “What enticed me was the national scope,” she explained. “I’ll be working with the National Park Service and Bureaus of Indian Affairs, Land Management and Reclamation.”

As she turns to a new chapter in her life, Charbonneau admits she will miss the Midwest, her family, her home state and the Packers. She won’t be alone, however. Her two dogs, two cats and horse will be making the move with her. In the meantime, if anyone is interested in a good deal on a three bedroom house on five acres complete with shed and two garages (one for hay and one for vehicles), please contact her as soon as possible. At press time, her house still had a “For Sale” sign in front of it.

Michigan Agencies *from Page 2*

will continue to support the goals of the trustee council which are to seek restoration of and compensation for the resources affected by the release of hazardous substances in the river and bay. Their technical staffs will continue to offer input and assistance to the council as needed. While Michigan DNR was part of the original 1997 agreement, Michigan DEQ and Department of Attorney General were added later via a May 2002 amendment.

The trustee council now consists of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

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. Binders containing fact sheets and newsletters, however, 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>

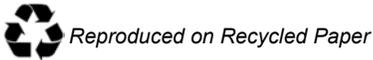
<http://contaminants.fws.gov/issues/restoration.cfm>

<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.



Region 5
 Superfund Division (SI-7J)
 77 W. Jackson Blvd.
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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 tri-annually 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 or 800-621-8431 Ext. 31325, weekdays, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. to request a subscription or alternative format. Feedback on articles and ideas for future issues are welcome. Send comments to Susan Pastor, EPA Superfund Division (SI-7J), 77 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604 or e-mail pastor.susan@epa.gov.