

LSSC Meeting Notes 6-16-08
From Mike Peterson, and John Barten

Attendees: Mario Crespo, John Barten, Harold Burrows, Sylvia Walsh, Jim Kujawa, Mark Holten (Loretto), Fred Bills, Leonard Jankowski (Greenfield), Tom Swanson (Greenfield), Carol and Heather Beasecker (Greenfield), Jerry Horazuk, Liz Wier (Medina), Jeff France (Loretto), Cindy Patnode (Loretto), Stan Kowski and Brenda Daniels, not signed in, Lance Gyllenblad (Independence), Barb Peichel (MPCA), Marcey Westrick (Mn BWSR)

Previous Meeting:

- Established how cities in the watershed will split up waste-load allocation.
- Established preliminary estimates for how many pounds of phosphorous each city has to reduce.
- Established land areas where the phosphorous is being generated.
- Established that there are 2 ways to reduce:
 - A. Source reduction.
 - B. Treatment of the run off itself. (Much more expensive.)

This Meeting

- Established preliminary figures for what phosphorous sources were actually making it to the lake. The final percentage each city is responsible for reducing will be based on phosphorous that makes it to the lake, as opposed to where the phosphorous is being generated.
- It will be up to individual cities to decide how they want to achieve the reduction in phosphorous loading.
- Medina's % has gone up slightly since previous meeting.
- Established preliminary figures that show ROW crops are responsible for 57% of Lake Sarah's external phosphorous loading.
- Practices that can minimize the affect of ROW crops were discussed. Jim Kujawa mentioned minimum tillage and nutrient management as BMPs to reduce P-loading from cropland.
- Nutrient management involves a crop consultant taking multiple soil samples to determine phosphorous content. The goal being to not apply phosphorous, or reduce the application rate, in soil that already has adequate phosphorous in it. I believe Cindy Patnode from Loretto, said the cost for a crop consultant they hired in 2007 was \$7.50 per acre.
- The St. Croix River Watershed Project has mandated phosphorous application rates based on the soil's need.
- What % of farmers that are using variable application rates when applying fertilizer is not known.
- An issue when addressing the recommended phosphorous content in soil for farming is that recommended soil phosphorus application rates vary between labs. MN Valley Laboratory tends to have higher recommended rates than the U of M for the same test results.

- You cannot control phosphorous content in manure like you can with fertilizer.
- 25 to 50 pounds/acre of available phosphorous is considered adequate for most crops. Tests John Barten has done with 300 yards showed available phosphorous in the 50 to 100 pounds per acre range.
- Leonard Jankowski felt the burden and cost for phosphorous reduction was going to be dumped on farmers. Mike Peterson told him that was not what anybody was saying.
- The potential cost savings for farmers that reduce phosphorous application rates in areas where it's not needed could be significant.
- Lake Sarah's watershed has approximately 2X as many pounds/acre of phosphorous runoff as Lake Independence watershed.
- Tentative target dates:
 - * TMDL and Implementation plan by January 2009.
 - * EPA approval by March 2009
 - * Approved by spring 2009
- * An association mentioned that may be worth finding out more about: Ag Coalition for Water Resources.
- * In response to a question from Mark Holten, John Barten made it clear that external loading has to be addressed before we will be able to achieve any permanent reduction in CLP without ongoing treatment and improve water quality. Both internal and external sources will need to be addressed for long-term improvement.
- * John Barten mentioned how Nitrate Levels affect weed growth:
 - * N does NOT cause a significant increase in CLP
 - * N DOES cause a significant increase in EWM
- * Gravel parking surfaces are equally as bad as asphalt with respect to runoff.
- * The lady representing Medina asked that John Barten provide a "Best Management Practices" for each category of phosphorous loading.
- * Tom Swanson asked a question about modeling.
- * Lance Gillenblad asked a question about the impact from sodium.
- * John Barten mentioned that 3-Rivers Park District was VERY interested in improving water quality on lakes where they own property.
- * Preliminary data from Lake Minnetonka's pilot test on 3 bays should be available by the end of June 2008.
- * I believe Barb Peichel and/or Marcy Westrick encouraged putting together a project and then trying to get the money to fund it, rather than trying to get the money first. Implication being, if you have a plan, money may be available.
- * Chicken or the egg? Yet to be determined. Does CLP cause poor water quality, or does poor water quality cause CLP?

Next Meeting:

- More accurate info on Feed Lots will be provided.
- Urban modeling
- Loading from Medina and Loretto will be better separated.
- Green urban vs. Ag?

- How effective are the wetlands at reducing loading.
- Next Meeting is at 6:30 PM August 18, 2008 at City of Independence.

Non-related:

- Lake Minnetonka's water quality is better on the East Side than West.
- Lake Minnetonka has 29 bays