

June 2016 International Water Institute Monitoring and Education Activity Report

FDR, Condition, Watershed, and SWAG Projects:

- WPLMN monitoring frequency has increased with recent high water levels. Several sites have been event based monitoring mode for the past few weeks. Water levels are normal (South) and normal to high (North) as listed in the latest MN DNR Stream Reports. Staff have been calculating 2014 loads for the WPLMN project sites since mid-February and have completed loads for all but a handful of sites that have available flow data. The final project report for FY14_15 was approved on 06/14/16 and is complete. A final request for funds was submitted.
- Staff are working with Henry Van Offlen to begin the organization/planning for the 2016 monitoring project reports which will incorporate wetland plant community conditions, water quality, and other available information. A model/draft report has been developed using information for the Brandt Impoundment. The draft/example report was presented to FDR Workgroup June 21, 2016. Additional reports will be developed in 2016 and will be created taking into consideration input received from the workgroup.
- BRRWD water quality monitoring project began the last week in April. IWI staff have been collecting monthly water quality samples at 21 sites and downloading flow data from 7 sites in the Buffalo Red Watershed District. Work will continue through October.

River Watch:

- Staff have been assisting River Watch teams with equipment issues and monitoring. Many of the teams began monitoring in early March.
- The final report for the 2014 – 2015 River Watch CWL project is complete. It is available on the IWI website. This report also needs to be posted to the RRWMB website on or before July 24, 2016. I have contacted Naomi in regards to this. The report can be viewed at the IWI website under “What’s New” or can be viewed at the following www.iwinst.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/2015-Red-River-Basin-River-Watch-Annual-Report.pdf
- IWI staff coordinated with Wilderness Inquiry in the planning and execution of the paddle events on the Red Lake River in Crookston June 8th, Thief River Falls June 9th, and East Grand Forks June 10th and June 11th. These paddle events were open to River Watch and River of Dreams students in the early afternoon sessions and to the public for evening paddles. Wilderness Inquiry provided 6 Voyager Canoes (10 passenger) to accommodate attendees. These events were a big success with 100 students and 250+ community members participating.
- Staff are in the process of locating biological monitoring sites and establishing biological monitoring protocols for our River Watch teams. They will be monitoring a select few locations starting this fall. Database updates to accommodate the macroinvertebrate data collected by the students are also in the planning stages with work to hopefully begin soon.
- Spring River Explorer trips have been completed for five schools. The schools to paddle in May included Valley-Edinburg May 17, Cavalier May 18, Walhalla May 19, Newfolden May 20, and Clearbrook May 31. Forty-two (42) students participated in these paddle trips. Summer/Fall trips in planning stage are Red Lake Falls, Hawley, Barnesville, Crookston, and Norman County East.

PL566 Planning/Project Acceleration:

- Develop method to assembling damage figures (without project condition)
- Prep and planning - Project Team meeting 4/21
- Prep and planning - Initial public scoping meeting 5/5
- Developing initial BCA results presentation for WRWD and RRWMB

PTMApp

- Working with BWSR PTMApp Business staff - budget and scope for statewide training services
- Public dataset posted – request user access @ <http://ptmapp.rrbdin.org/>
- Preparing RRWMB presentation at the July meeting

MN Drainage Work Group – GIS/Drainage Assessment.

- Initial method and results compiled/under review
- Webinar with DWG Advisory Committee
- Progress Memo #2 submitted
- Full DWG presentation June 9th
- Application of method in three pilot areas underway
 - Compare results and level of effort with traditional viewing of same systems

US Corps Red River Basin Feasibility Study

- Advisory Committee meeting 6/14
- Preparing work-in-kind information

Congressman Peters Tile Drainage “listening Session”

- Provided BTSAC information to staff

RRBDIN

- LiDAR Viewer updates in progress
- Amazon Cloud services contract in place
 - Will assess budget impact regularly (at least quarterly) a long-term funding plan is needed.
- LiDAR data will remain at NDSU until phase-out
 - After phase out - users can access LiDAR data via ND and MN data websites.