

Note: The scheduled meeting of the entire group on 10 August 2006 was canceled in lieu of a meeting with agencies and executive committee members on 16 August.

Red Lake River Corridor Planning Session

August 16, 2006 – UMC

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Watershed Watch – a proposal funded by NWMF. Use River Watch teams as helpers to the Corridor group. Also grow a community-engaged program that allows community members to volunteer. This is a pilot program to develop a model for community watershed activities.

- Help with marketing activities, communications,
- Help communities accomplish smaller “hands-on” projects.
- Inventory what is happening in the communities

DNR request – accessing the river – more regular access points

How can the RLRCE access state funding through the avenue of regular capital investments led by DNR?

- o Agency budget for next biennium is being prepared right now. What are the aspects/activities that can be in the agency budget, what can be in the bonding request (Governor’s budget) For example, Mary Broten can ask for more funding in the water access in her service area. Also need to develop better partnerships.
- o Bonding request – need a legislative champion
- o

A couple of high priority items:

- Huot landing – needs some improvement. Huot Park Board has money to invest in the site. DNR has funds to invest in sites. 2008 is big anniversary (175 years) for the treaty signing in August. Legislators and Governors. Need to have the landing ready for this event. Need some bank protection as river approaches the county road. FEMA funds have been used to.
- RiverWatch curriculum can include the historic context for the treaty anniversary. Media stories, educational activities. River of Dreams launch from Huot?
- Removal of dam downstream of Crookston, owned by Ottertail Power Co. May be waiting on permits and/or DNR funding. So far, there has been little progress to date. Keith will take the lead on this.
- Fisher area access -
- Clean Water Legacy funds available to address impairments. Watershed District to partner with the SWCD. Grants are available; multiple partners make the proposal more competitive, also matching funds. Maybe to do the inventory of erosion spots. Legacy application window is September. Point in Red Lake Falls, owned by DNR. Shawnn is willing to poll the SWCD’s to find more projects. Thief River Falls golf course on the Thief River is another project.
- Market the recreational resource on the river. I.e. boy scouts taking a 50 mile trip on the river. Is there a map or guide that identifies camping sites.

- Need to consider the function of the river; apply erosion control measures in appropriate places and allow the river to move sediment as
- Marywood facility – could provide infrastructure. Over a mile of river access to the property. Lodging possibilities. Similar model to Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center. This one – Northern Prairie Visitor Center. MNDOT is considering this functioning as a rest area. Lots of potential for partnerships.
- Organize the players, funding, types of projects, timelines. May need to develop a matrix of all these projects, ideas, players, to make sure that all the projects have a way to keep progress happening. “Projects yank in people, people just love projects.” Match up the projects and parts of projects with funding sources and resources. (John, do you have a format that you have used? Spreadsheet? Database?)
- There is generous capital available to the group – what are the resources each organization, agency can provide to the progress of this group.
- RLRCE could ask Pembina Trail to provide technical assistance to develop the matrix (as first task). Maybe to take the lead on particular.
- Is this group being pushed to do things that are not ready to do?
- How to identify common mission aspects – resources that the RLRCE can access through the organizations and agencies.
- IWI can help with grant writing for some items.
- Need better participation of all partners, better communication, better coordination, stronger community-based support.

Record the progress to date:

- Planning process engaging communities
- improvements to High Landing and other Pennington county landings
- St Hilaire access
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Might the priorities be described like this:

One acquisition in the next year – TRF, Fisher,
DNR?

One total rehab of a site - Huot
DNR?

Erosion control – near Huot, SWCDs can identify some others
Clean Water Legacy, Red

Events to Celebrate 40 years of Boating and Canoe Route and 175 year Anniversary at Huot.
Pembina Trail RC&D, Riverland Association, Historical Society, RiverWatch

Next meeting - September 20th in Crookston