Dec. 4, 2008

Mary Gansberg
Wi. Dept. of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 10448
Green Bay, Wi. 54307-0448

Re; Wolf River Conservation Alliance river planning grant.

Dear Mary,

Enclosed and included please find the final requirements of the river planning grant in order to receive our last payment.

1] Organizational assessment – enclosed Assessment of the Wolf River Conservation Alliance.
2] Plan, design and print brochure – enclosed two copies.
3] Train and support citizen volunteers – this was done in various ways including getting volunteers for the Mukwa project from those attending the 1st Annual Forum. Volunteers also utilized for Wolf River Cleanup in partnership with Shadows on the Wolf.
4] Organize and conduct two workshops - 1st Annual Forum served as a workshop to train people on grant process involving different groups and where monies available from. Also gave exposure to numerous groups and led to partnerships. On June 28, 2008 WRCA board member held a clean boat workshop at the Marion Pond instructing five volunteers.
5] Create site conservation plan – enclosed plans from Todd Close and Steve Huffman.

Upon your review and approval WRCA requests the final payment of the river planning grant. If you have any questions feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Rick

Rick Herzfeldt
Wolf River Conservation Alliance
W7409 River Bend Circle
Shawano, Wi. 54166
715-526-2958
rhc202@frontiernet.net

ASSESSMENT OF THE WOLF RIVER CONSERVATION ALLIANCE

By

Rick Herzfeldt – President

Dec. 3, 2008

The Wolf River Conservation Alliance [WRCA] is an effort to unite the conservation based groups in the Wolf River Basin from the Shawano dam downstream to the Neenah-Menasha dam. This alliance would also include the WDNR and other governmental units affected. Through communication, education and collaboration it was hoped to provide a forum where as the groups would work together to do larger projects and possibly streamline the permit process. Awareness of what other groups are doing along with new ideas also play a key role in WRCA's development.

Initial meetings were held in 2004 to see what if any interest was out there in forming an alliance. Facilitated by the WDNR and Shadows on the Wolf, these meetings drew interest from twelve to fifteen organizations. Benefits perceived from this alliance could be:

1] Having a unified voice on issues
2] Improved relations with the public
3] Education
4] Project collaboration

Items the group did not want were more meetings, loss of control of their own funds, lack of clear mission and duplication of efforts.

At the May 9, 2005 meeting it was agreed that assembling and disseminating information was key to both getting an alliance up and running and keeping it going. Bill Shogren, a newly retired outdoor writer, agreed to do this with help from Roger Pitt. Bill since this meeting has had some health issues and moved out of the area and this key element was never put in place. Also at this meeting Todd Close of New London and Rick Herzfeldt of Shawano were nominated as Co-chairs of the newly formed Wolf River Conservation Alliance. The group adopted the following mission statement: The Wolf River Conservation Alliance promotes the long-term sustainability of the Wolf River. The mission of the Alliance is to protect and improve the natural habitats associated with the Wolf River through communication, education and collaboration. Meetings are to be held four times a year. Start up money was received from Shadows on the Wolf.

After the May 2005 meeting the next meetings focused on organizational set up and things the WRCA could do to be recognized. Committees were established to address publicity, education, legislation and projects. Mukwa Wildlife Area was agreed upon as one of the projects to gain some recognition. Waupaca Co. Natural Resource Foundation agreed to be a sponsor for the 501[3] [c] status and for checking and savings accounts.

Grant possibilities were also discussed, projects evaluated and minutes of the meetings used as a reminder for upcoming events of the organizations involved. It is noted that once these organizational meetings started attendance at these meetings dropped.

Grant possibilities and proposed projects then became the main focus of the WRCA. Leslie Taylor was hired to write a DNR river planning grant. A grant request to Wings Over Wisconsin was unsuccessful. Email and a website were looked in to but with no funds and no one to maintain, these items fell by the wayside. A Mukwa citizen's action group was formed as a separate committee. Other projects such as Spohr's Marsh mowing/burning and a burning of a marsh south of Leeman were pushed. All projects then hit a "bump in the road" with the DNR master planning process and new request forms had to be filled out.

Interim board members were appointed including Denny Conradt, Rick Herzfeldt, Todd Close and Tom King. The first annual WRCA Forum was held on March 24th, 2007 with a dozen groups putting up displays at the Mosquito Hill Nature Center. George Meyer spoke on "Partnerships to Preserve our Natural Heritage". Each group gave a short explanation of their activities and goals. Mukwa residents were invited to a "Conservation Café" to discuss their concerns and thoughts on returning Mukwa Wildlife Area back to its original state. All groups and organizations were given notice of this event and we had over 100 people in attendance. WRCA started gaining some momentum with the obtaining of the DNR planning grant. Inquiries from the City of New London and the City of Shawano came in regarding assistance with projects which were reviewed by WRCA board members. The request for funds by these two governmental units was of prime concern along with ideas on how to do the proposed projects.

At the annual meeting on April 30, 2007 election of board members was held and Tom King, Denny Conradt, Todd Close, Dale Braun and Rick Herzfeldt were chosen. By-laws were approved and dues of $50 for an organization and $10 for an associate membership set. Membership request were sent out to all organizations and governmental groups. In the following meetings projects were discussed and planned, grant requirements fulfilled and election of officers. Rick Herzfeldt elected president, Todd Close vice-president and Sue Close secretary/treasurer. WRCA brochures were made and printed at the Navarino Nature Center, invasive species [clean boat] workshop set up and the 2nd annual forum organized. Spohr's Marsh and Leeman burn projects put on hold due to weather. Board members have also appeared in Madison on two separate bills and one TV appearance with the DNR Secretary and DNR Regional Director announcing a large land purchase by the DNR along the Wolf.

The 2nd annual WRCA Forum was held in March 2008 at the River Rail in Shiocton. Kendall Kamke and Al Niebuhr of the WDNR gave presentations on walleye and catfish management in the Wolf River. A formal meeting was held along with open discussion, ATC monies available for conservation projects, door prizes and food and refreshments. Attendance was only about 60 people. During the meeting and social hour only one question was brought forth concerning the ATC funds. Since this meeting their have been

very few inquiries of WRCA. Vice-President Todd Close was able to secure a grant from Waupaca Co. ATC monies for a fish management study along the Mukwa Wildlife Area.

In conclusion, the WRCA could be a viable entity in the conservation of the Wolf River, however it has yet to gain acceptance by those it chooses to represent. Some of the issues WRCA needs to address are as follows:

1] Effective Communications System – Email is great, yet not all the groups have Email or do not have someone in their group designated as a PR person. WRCA does not have someone who is good on the computer and has time to gather and get info out. WRCA has gotten very little feedback from any organizations throughout its existence.

2] Active Workers – all the WRCA board members are the "movers and shakers" in their organizations. WRCA does not have the funds to hire a representative of WRCA to go out and get things going. WRCA encompasses a large area on the map.

3] Big Brother - the Wolf River already has Shadows on the Wolf, Sturgeon for Tomorrow and Walleyes for Tomorrow as active, long standing organizations. All the smaller groups know they can contact any of the "Big 3" for assistance on bigger projects. The WDNR already has a Lower Wolf River Bottoms plan in place and has shown it will and has actively pursued land purchases on the Wolf.

4] Membership – evidently most of the smaller groups are happy with what they are doing and what is happening. After numerous membership drives and two annual meetings only three or four groups have sent in memberships each year. It is hard to get up before a legislative committee or appear on TV saying you represent 30-35 groups along the Wolf River when you really don't. Most seem to be happy doing their own thing in their own area.

WRCA needs to re-evaluate its existence, expectations may have been too high. Until WRCA can find someone [preferably from the Shiocton-New London area] who can devote their time and be given effective tools [Email, $$, etc.], WRCA will be a low key, meet twice a year discussion type group.

Wolf River Conservation Alliance

presents the

First Annual

Wolf River Conservation Forum

March 24, 2007 from 11 am to 3pm

Mosquito Hill Nature Center
N3880 Rogers Road, New London WI

- Speakers, Exhibits & Project Sharing from 11 am to 3pm
- Lunch by Half Nelson's from 12:30 to 1:30 Cost $5.00

Keynote Speaker - George Meyer
Executive Director of Wisconsin Wildlife Federation
"Partnerships to Preserve our Natural Heritage"

See what area conservation groups are doing ~ Share your ideas ~ Get Involved

Represent your club or organization

Visit with DNR Wardens, Fish and Wildlife Biologists

Learn about improving habitat for sturgeon, walleyes, birds and other wildlife

All conservation groups and the general public are invited.

RSVP at wolfriverconservation@yahoo.com or call 920-779-6433

Also part of the Wolf River Conservation Forum

9 am to 11 am in the Library of
Mosquito Hill Nature Center on March 24, 2007

Conservation Café for Town of Mukwa residents**

Share your ideas about wildlife habitat projects and discover ways to become involved

** This is a guided round-table discussion with coffee, bakery treats and interesting guests.

Please join us!

Wolf River Conservation Alliance

2nd ANNUAL MEETING

DATE: Saturday MARCH 15, 2008

PLACE: RIVER RAIL BANQUET HALL
N5549 State Rd Shiocton, WI 54170

TIME: Doors open at 6pm (cocktails & snacks)
Meeting at 7pm

Contact: Susan Close 920-982-4980 or
Rick Herzfelt 715-526-2958

Join us for an informative meeting on topics such as;
The Fox Locks Proposed Boat Lift, Invasive Species
VHS, and <u>any Wolf River Project Proposals !</u>

FREE BEER ~ POP ~ SNACKS ~ & ~ DOOR PRIZES
COME JOIN US FOR A LITTLE FUN &
EDUCATION!!

2005

Mukwa Summary

Years ago 1950's-19660's and before the Mukwa Marsh in springtime was a viable walleye spawn marsh. Since then several things influenced its viability.

Property owners such as farmers use to cut the marsh grass off in the area to use as bedding. This maintains the grassy areas for the walleyes to spawn in when flooded. Several ditches were dug to allow the marsh to dry to out to allow easy access to cut the grass. (Theses were considered outlets. One of them was named benefit ditch.

When grasses were maintained at a short high this gave easy access when the water was high to allow the walleyes to spawn in the marsh. The other accesses for fish was at the southwest corner of the marsh called the Marksman's bayou. This is still a viable spewing area today.

About ten years ago theses ditches were plugged to retain water for waterfowl. Still today, a viable idea or option.

To be a viable walleye spawning marsh you have to have constant water flow with current. Water flows on the wolf river vary greatly. The height of the river affects witch marsh there will be current flow in witch dictates witch marsh is then viable for spawning. The Mukwa marsh was viable most of the time until several factors occurred.

Bordering the river on the east and north sides of the marsh is county highway X. When the river levels rose the road use to flood and the water then flooded the marsh and the water then created an ideal condition for walleye spawning because of the increased water flows. This was once source of water "inflows."

The other two were bridges: the Rams creek bridge and another large bridge south of the big Eddie road. These bridges were fifty to one hundred feet in length created the original water inflows into the Mukwa marsh.

In time the locals and the Wisconsin Conservation Commission (now known as the DNR) purposed to make the Mukwa marsh wildlife haven their plan, was so called " Little Horicon."

This was suppose to be a satellite fly away for ducks and geese for the large Horicon marsh that was being implemented at the time.

At that time the locals sold their property to the Wisconsin Conservation Commission under the impression that this area was going to be made into the Little Horicon wild life haven.

At the same time, and several times later- the Waupaca county highway department raised highway X to maintain it. They also eliminated the to large

bridges on highway X. Unfortunately by raise the road level they cut off the water inflow to the marshlands, thus creating the premature death of the marsh.

At one time they installed four large culverts on highway X to eliminate some of the flooding in New London. Obviously from engineering stand point this was a great idea "they eliminated the bridge and placed four culverts in another area." But I feel this was a huge mistake because the culverts were installed in the wrong area and at too high of an elevation level.

So by raising the road over time and eliminating the bridge plus the wrong placement of the culverts all off these factors affected the water flow into the marsh. This decreased the viability for spawning immensely. Since then we "Walleyes for Tomorrow" have done studies to implement a new strategy for the Mukwa marsh for all uses and for all concerned.

At this time we are trying to organize several groups to partnership on the new strategy.

Hope in conservation,

Todd Close

Project Manager, Walleyes For Tomorrow

(920)982-4980

DATED 4-14-08

Todd Close
Walleyes for Tomorrow
E9417 County Road T
New London, WI 54961-8425

MUKWA WILDLIFE AREA PARTNERSHIP SUMMARY

In August of 2005 a group of concerned citizens, local conservation group representatives and Department of Natural Resources personnel gathered to discuss the Mukwa Wildlife Area. The meeting was sponsored by the Wolf River Conservation Alliance. The Mukwa Wildlife Area has a long history as an important spawning marsh and wildlife area. Local citizens have shown a great deal of interest in preserving the natural resources of the area.

To help plan for future projects and to increase partnership opportunities the Mukwa Citizens Advisory Committee was formed. The committee initially consisted of five interested local citizens. This number was increased to six members at a later date.

The group met on a regular basis to discuss goals, projects, and possible options to achieve these goals. A number of conservation organizations including Walleyes for Tomorrow, Shadows on the Wolf, and Ducks Unlimited also participated in these discussions. The group agreed on the following long term goals:

1. The Mukwa Wildlife Area is maintained as a river floodplain property consisting of bottomland hardwood forests and seasonal wetlands that support a wide variety of fish and wildlife species.

2. The Mukwa Wildlife Area is managed to allow low-impact recreational activities that are compatible with sustaining native vegetation and the production of native fish and wildlife. These activities include hunting, fishing, trapping, nature viewing, hiking, and others.

3. The Mukwa Wildlife Area shoreline with the Wolf River and Little Wolf River is allowed to remain in a natural condition as created by these rivers except for isolated erosion control associated with flood plain, hydrologic restoration activities.

4. The Mukwa Bottomland Forest State natural Area is managed to protect and perpetuate this bottomland forest and the adjoining wildlife area lands are managed as a bottomland forest providing a buffer to protect the integrity of the natural area.

5. The Mukwa Wildlife Area is managed to protect native flora and fauna with monitoring for invasive species by preventing and reducing the impacts of invasive species as much as feasible.

6. The Mukwa Wildlife Area is managed to increase access opportunities/buffer opportunities.

A ranking criterion was created which looked at the cost, visibility, timeline ecological and human benefits of the projects that were discussed. Several high ranking projects were discussed as good places to begin work.

In the later winter of 2006 members of the advisory committee planned and coordinated the installation of six osprey nest platforms with the help of WE Energies and a local wildlife rehabilitation facility, The Feather. Two platforms were placed on Mukwa Wildlife Area one on other state lands. Three more were placed on nearby private lands.

Other project work accomplished included DNR personnel mowing willow adjacent to the County X parking lot on Mukwa. Several members of the advisory committee assisted department personnel in contacting local landowners to locate boundary markers to post them. The construction and placement of informational kiosks at parking lots on Mukwa by Advisory committee members was also discussed and planned but not implemented.

One large project that received a fair amount of time involved the placement of box culverts under County Rd. X to increase water flow into the marsh. This project involved the advisory committee, as well as Walleyes for Tomorrow, Shadows on the Wolf, Ducks Unlimited, DNR personnel, and the Waupaca County Highway Department. On site meetings were held and public contacts were made by advisory committee members. Survey and engineering work were planned but for a number of reasons a final commitment for funding to do the initial survey work was not made. It is not known at this time if this project will be revisited.

At this time the Mukwa Citizens Advisory Committee has not met since mid 2007. The scheduling of future meetings would be up to the members of the committee. Departmental projects still underway on Mukwa include continued boundary posting, parking lot development and possible bottomland hardwood tree plantings.

STEVEN HOFFMAN
WDNR
N2480 HARTMAN CREEK RD.
WAUPACA, WI 54981

Wolf River Conservation Alliance
Attn: Susan Close
E9417 County Road T
New London, WI 54961

Wolf River Conservation Alliance

Working to Protect and Improve the Natural Habitats Associated with the Wolf River

Lower Wolf River Bottomlands Natural Resources Area

Identifying Letter	Property Name
A	Navarino Wildlife Area
B	Deer Creek Wildlife Area
C	Maine Wildlife Area
D	Wolf River Bottoms Wildlife Area—Herb Behnke
E	Outagamie Wildlife Area
F	Mack Wildlife Area
G	Wolf River Bottoms Wildlife Area—LaSage Unit
H	Hortonville Bog State Natural Area
I	Wolf River Fishery Area
J	Mukwa Wildlife Area
K	Shaky Lake State Nature Area
L	Wolf River Wildlife Area
M	Rat River Wildlife Area
1	Mosquito Hill Nature Center
2	Navarino Nature Center

Map of the Lower Wolf River Bottomlands provided by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

✂ Cut on line

TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF

To help make your membership experience more meaningful, please tell us about yourself.

Occupation: _____

What are your interests?

- ☐ Projects: Environment / Conservation
- ☐ Fundraising
- ☐ Education & Workshops
- ☐ Communication & Publicity
- ☐ Legislation & Lobbying
- ☐ Other _____

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Yes, I'd like to be a volunteer. Please contact me about volunteering in the following areas...

- ☐ Monitor & educate fisherman at boat landings about invasive species.
- ☐ River clean up projects
- ☐ Watershed / Stream monitoring
- ☐ Clean waters, Clean Boats program

Thank you, for your interest in the Wolf River Conservation Alliance. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Be sure to complete both sides of the Membership form.
Send your completed form to:

Wolf River Conservation Alliance
Attn: Susan Close
E 9417 County Road T
New London, WI 54961

Questions? Please call 920-982-4980

Wolf River Conservation Alliance

is a coalition of conservation organizations working in Outagamie, Shawano, Waupaca and Winnebago counties for the protection and improvement of the Wolf River ecosystem. WRCA is working to promote the long-term sustainability of the Wolf River.

The mission of the WRCA is to protect and improve the natural habitats associated with the Wolf River through communication, education and collaboration.

Our goal is to create an alliance of groups that work together to improve the long-term sustainability of the Wolf River Basin. In order to reach this goal the alliance has formed four main work areas including:

- Projects

Rawhide About Face volunteers assist with the Volz Landing Project to help improve Walleye spawning.

- Education

– Clean Waters, Clean Boats training

– Workshops offered at:

  – Navarino Nature Center

  – Mosquito Hill Nature Center

– Monitor & Educate about Aquatic Invasive Species

– River Clean Up projects

Created & Printed at Navarino Nature Center - 2008

- Communication

– Conservation forum between organizations & groups

– Town meetings / Conservation Café

- Legislation

– Provide a unified voice for the protection and long-term sustainability of the Wolf River ecosystem, both regionally and statewide.

Shadows on the Wolf project at the Shawano Dam.

Wolf River Conservation Alliance Membership

Thank you for becoming a member of the Wolf River Conservation Alliance (WRCA). Your member and volunteer work will help support projects that improve our environment and the sustainability of the Lower Wolf River Basin.

So that we can make your membership experience meaningful and enjoyable, please take a moment to complete the membership card. This information will be used in support of member programs.

Membership Levels per calendar year *(please select one)*

- ❑ New member ❑ Renewing member
- ❑ Associate Member $ 10.00 per year

Associate members support the Alliance and may participate in its activities, however will not be able to cast votes.

- ❑ Group / Organization Member $ 50.00 per year

Please designate one official representative from your group / organization for voting purposes.

Official representative : _____

Organization: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

State: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Method of Payment

- ❑ Cash *(please do not send cash via the mail)*
- ❑ Check *payable to Wolf River Conservation Alliance*

Signature: _____