

Memorandum

To: Brian Christianson, Steve Russell, Pam Biersach
From: Rob Montgomery
Date: September 21, 2010, revised February 18, 2011
cc: Jon Lefers, Danielle Lee, Steve Hjort, Wendy Frohlich
Re: Record of Workshop 3

Lake Koshkonong Project
Record of Third Public Workshop
Held at Milton, Wisconsin on September 18, 2010

Attendees

The third workshop was held in the outdoor event tent at the Buckhorn Supper Club, located on Lake Koshkonong at Milton.

Workshop presentation team:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: Steve Russell, Wendy Frohlich
Rock Koshkonong Lake District: Brian Christianson, chair, several other members of the Lake District Board of Directors, and consultants to the District Rob Montgomery and Danielle Lee of Montgomery Associates, and Stan Nichols of Eco-Resource Consulting

Approximately 70 members of the public attended the workshop, the great majority of whom resided within the Lake District. About half of the participants had not previously attended a workshop.

Presentation

A handout of the presentation slides was available at the Workshop (attached).

The workshop was opened at 1 PM by Brian Christianson, Chair of the Rock Koshkonong Lake District, who welcomed the attendees and described this third workshop as a continuation of the process of developing a multi-project plan for Lake Koshkonong.

Rob Montgomery presented the projects and issues that the design team was considering using a PowerPoint presentation. Topics covered included:

Previous Workshop and Activities Review

- Because about half of the workshop attendees had not been to a previous meeting, Rob gave a project and workshop summary.
- Activities since the last workshop
 - Ecological data collection: submergent aquatic plants were inventoried by Eco-Resource Consulting on Lake Koshkonong and Mud Lake, which indicate the ecological health of the Lakes. Mud Lake has more submergent aquatic plants present than Lake Koshkonong does.
 - Further evaluation of dredging, breakwater, and island construction.
 - Identification of experimental projects.
 - The RKL D team is completing descriptions of a range of projects for detailed evaluation by the Army Corps of Engineers and the Wisconsin DNR.

Development of Full Scale Project Options

- Navigational access dredging is an expensive alternative. Alternative layouts and dredging depths have cost reducing potential. A question remaining is how sediment is deposited/removed from dredge areas via in lake processes. The rate of infill and sedimentation is difficult to predict.
 - Lakebed sediment sampling of potential dredge sites showed that most sediment at the North Shore Boat Launch is fine sand (70%). Sandier sediment is easier to dewater after dredging.
 - Options for dredge spoil placement include creating islands, depositing upland, and reinforcing shoreline areas subject to erosion. Containment could be achieved with stone berms and/or geotubes.
- Residential shoreline erosion control (with lake access) projects could include offshore or nearshore islands or breakwaters. Placement of a wave barrier may bring up sedimentation issues.
- The goal of fishery enhancements would be to provide spawning areas adjacent to the lake for desirable fish and to implement upstream control and in lake harvesting of rough fish.

Experiment 1: Dredging for Navigation Access

- Experiment would involve dredging for shoreline navigation access at the North Shore boat landing and constructing a breakwater to contain the dredge materials. The breakwater could reinforce the land separating Lake Koshkonong from Mud Lake.
- Fill areas could be restored to create habitat for wildlife.
- Goal would be to experiment with dredging a smaller version of a larger project to learn about sedimentation rates.

Experiment 2: Carp Barrier at Mud Lake Outlet

- Another potential project is to replace or repair the carp gate at Mud Lake and implement more barriers to isolate carp out of Mud Lake.
- Spawning areas for game and pan fish could be enhanced.

- The carp gate could be a net with a floating top, anchored at the bottom, similar to the Wisconsin DNR carp gate implemented at Lake Butte des Morts.

Experiment 3: Bingham Bay Dredging and Breakwater

- Potential project would involve dredging a portion of the oxbow channel and the bay at the outlet. A breakwater would be constructed to protect the outlet.
- Objective would be to monitor channel sediment accumulation for documenting the efficiency of selected navigation improvements.

Experiment 4: Floating Island in Off-Lake Protected Water

- Goal would be to test the concept to see if a floating island is appropriate for Lake Koshkonong or protected waters near the Lake.
- Has the potential to create waterfowl and wildlife habitat and may limit potential for loss of wetland floating mats during flood condition.

Experiment 5: Residential Shoreline Protection Reconstruction

- Another potential project could be “standardizing” onshore revetments to include high and low stage protection for homeowners on both the Rock River and Lake Koshkonong.

Additional Issues Being Evaluated

- Navigation hazard removal and marking, Rock River water quality, local water quality issues.

Workshop participant discussion issues

In general, the level of audience interest in the wide variety of ecological, navigation and management issues discussed was very high. Many of the questions received were detailed and thoughtful. The workshop participants were generally very enthusiastic about the prospect of the work of this project improving conditions on Lake Koshkonong.

The list below summarizes the participant questions and issues discussed (*answers or observations in italics*) during and following the presentation on potential projects:

1. Request for more notice for workshops and meetings -- *Response: A commitment was made to provide more notice for future meetings (probably 3 to 4 weeks would be best)*
2. Can someone write an article on the project for the newspaper? -- *Response: No specific commitment was made in the meeting, other than the issue would be looked into.*
3. Can we put out a survey that identifies how each resident uses the lake we need to design the questionnaire so that owners of many parcels do not skew the results? -- *Response: it was pointed out that there was a survey conducted several years ago associated with the water level*

proposal, and that the first workshop was primarily data gathering on residence desires for the future of the Lake.

4. Will the gun clubs take legal action to acquire land created by break waters? -- *Response: it is unknown what legal action may be taken, but the issue of ownership, public access, and the right to traverse or navigate needs to be addressed in our analysis of potential projects.*
5. Could we get a better explain dynamics of the river/lake, including how and why the Lake bottom is armored? *Response: a brief explanation of the variety of processes was given, and a description that this will be covered in our assessment.*
6. Why is ecology of the lake important to me? Can better ecology make Lake Koshkonong a destination point? -- *Response: This issue will be addressed in the project environmental assessment documents*
7. In response to questions on how water quality could be improved, the audience was encouraged to become active in the watershed decision making for water quality. *Response: Advocacy for watershed water quality improvements that would improve the Rock River should be part of the recommendations for ongoing management Lake Koshkonong*
8. Who pays for what projects? Should the 4,000 tax parcels pay for the few hundred-lakeshore residents who have the access problems to the main channel? *Response: The process of decision-making on selection of projects for implementation (by RKLDD, other groups, or other governments) and on how the projects could be paid for will be described in the project report documents.*
9. We still need to know where the sediments are moving around the lake. Where is the sand, silts, and gravel deposit? *Response: The generalities of the sediment transport were discussed in response to this question; it certainly identifies the need for this discussion in the project documents.*
10. The workshop audience was enthusiastic about identifying a systematic approach And design guidance for shoreline protection that private property owners could use. *Response methods for shoreline protection should be part of the programmatic approach for the community*
11. Explain floodplain vs. floodway, how does that affect my property? -- *Response: this issue was described during the workshop, and will be in a glossary section or something similar in the project documents.*
12. Why does the "oxbow" at Bingham Point have signs that say private? -- *Response: this should be investigated -- access to navigable waters cannot be restricted by private ownership of the adjacent land.*
13. How do we insure projects are constructed correctly if there are multi funded? -- *Response: It was described that all projects would have a lead agency or organization in charge, and will be subject to construction quality control requirements.*
14. Does RKLDD have any control over the Indianford Dam and does the dam control the Lake level? *Response: this question was answered in some detail (again) -- this issue will be described in the project documents*
15. Does groundwater driven flooding play a role in Lake Koshkonong's flooding problems? -- *Response: groundwater discharge is unlikely to produce peak flooding problems, but does contribute to the base flow of the Rock River.*
16. How are groundwater levels now as compared to historic levels? -- *Response: groundwater levels are generally high due to the heavy rain falls in 2008 and also in 2010, but we do not have a great deal of data in the vicinity of Lake Koshkonong.*

17. Could sand or other sediments be collected from the lake and harvested? -- *Response: sediment could be harvested for sale, but the value would most likely not be significant enough to offset any dredging or excavation costs.*
18. Do creeks contribute sediment to the lake? *No, it mostly comes from the Rock River. The sediment is resuspended with wind and wave action.*
19. Is the goal to keep carp out of Mud Lake? *Response: Yes.*
20. Is someone adding young carp to the Lake Koshkonong? *Response: most likely not, they are probably coming from upstream.*
21. How does carp harvesting work and what are the financial incentives? *Response: the carp harvesting is a state regulated activity and that the current carp harvesting operation was conducted according to state rules. The operator is responding to market forces in terms of how many fish is taken from the Lake, not to stipulated requirements for removal of a certain tonnage of fish. The possibility of additional incentives for rough fish harvesting consistent with a management plan will be evaluated in this project.*

Close of Workshop

At the conclusion of the open mike question-and-answer session the workshop was closed at approximately 3:30 PM.

Attachments: Handout of Presentation Slides