

## Waukesha Still Planning to Tap Into Lake Michigan

After 3 years, the City of Waukesha has finally submitted its revised Great Lakes diversion application proposing to divert an average of 10.1 million gallons of water per day from Lake Michigan to Waukesha.

Waukesha's water supply currently comes from a mix of shallow and deep groundwater wells. The groundwater in the deep aquifer contains high levels of radium, a naturally occurring carcinogen, which Waukesha needs to address per court order by 2018. By mixing water sources, Waukesha currently meets federal radium standards 11 months of the year.

Waukesha lies wholly outside of the Great Lakes Basin, but is within a "straddling county" and thus eligible to apply for an exception to the ban on diversions of water outside of the Great Lakes per the Great Lakes Compact. The Compact is a multi-state agreement which requires the Great Lakes states to protect and manage this world-class resource in a unified manner, adopt and implement strong water conservation measures, and prohibit diversions from the Great Lakes. The Great Lakes Compact was adopted by all eight U.S. Great Lakes states, ratified by Congress, and signed by President Bush in 2008.

Exceptions to the water diversion prohibition are allowed only under very limited circumstances and only if a community meets rigorous requirements. For example, Waukesha needs to show it has "no reasonable water supply alternatives", that it is

able to return the water back to the Great Lakes (minus an allowance for consumption), and has met strong water conservation requirements.

The Waukesha application is receiving a lot of attention because it's essentially the first test case of the Great Lakes Compact. Thus, Waukesha's application will set a precedent for all future water diversions out of the Great Lakes, not only for Wisconsin but for the entire Great Lakes Region.

New cost estimates for an alternative solution that would use some of the city's existing shallow groundwater wells in addition to aggressive water conservation and riverbank inducement from the Fox River are estimated at \$217 million, \$10 million more than a Lake Michigan diversion.

Riverbank inducement is a sustainable "closed loop" type system, which uses shallow groundwater filtered naturally by the riverbed and returns this water back to the river after use and treatment. This has been used successfully by other cities such as Louisville, KY, and shows a lot of promise. Water is used, treated, and returned upstream from where it's taken in order to minimize flow impacts to the river and associated habitats. Impacts to local wetland areas like the Vernon Marsh would have to be closely monitored and mitigated to ensure that these resources would not be negatively impacted.

Milwaukee Riverkeeper is part of the



### **Waukesha's revised application includes major changes from their initial application submitted in May 2010, including:**

- A slight decrease in the amount of water requested for average daily use, from 10.9 to 10.1 million gallons per day or mgd
- A decrease in the amount of "maximum" daily water use requested from 18.5 to 16.7 mgd
- A new preferred water supplier of Oak Creek instead of Milwaukee
- An increase in the cost for the diversion from \$164 Million to \$207 Million
- A change in the preferred wastewater return location from Underwood Creek near Wauwatosa to the Root River near the Racine County line

# Milwaukee Riverkeeper Comings and Goings

In September, we bid farewell to **Executive Director Karen Schapiro**. She provided invaluable legal expertise both before she came on board as Executive Director in July 2009 and during her 4 year tenure.

Under her leadership, Milwaukee Riverkeeper continued to advocate for removal of the Estabrook Dam; compliance with the Clean Water Act; river friendly legislation and policies; and the reduction of point source and nonpoint source water pollution. She collaborated with the Sweet Water Trust, the Water Table, and many other organizations on issues affecting our rivers and Lake Michigan such as Waukesha's proposed Great Lakes water diversion, implementation of the State's new phosphorus rules, and fighting State rollbacks to our hard fought environmental laws. Karen shepherded and supported the creation of the annual River Report Card to highlight the state of the rivers and the data collected by our faithful water quality monitors. She worked successfully with the board, funders, volunteers, and staff of Milwaukee Riverkeeper to increase membership and donations, programs, and events.



We could go on and on naming the many ways she has served Milwaukee Riverkeeper and helped us improve our operations and efficiency. Thank you Karen! The ripples of positive contributions you have made to our rivers will extend ever outward after your departure. We currently have an ad hoc committee that is working to hire our next Executive Director!

In August, we also said goodbye to our **Director of Operations Laura Maker**, who left us to take on a new position at Diverse & Resilient.

We wish to express a deep gratitude for our outgoing board members **Honia Leon, Mike Lindemann**, and **Susan Winecki** who have all made our organization stronger and more resilient in their own ways! Special thanks to Mike who served as our treasurer for six years, ensuring that we stay on a sound financial path.

Additionally we welcome two new board members to Milwaukee Riverkeeper, **Chris Daood** and **Lilith Fowler**.



Chris is a psychologist at Marquette University, where he provides therapy and programming at Marquette's Counseling Center, promotes gender equity as a Deputy Title IX Coordinator for students, and is an adjunct faculty member in the School of Education. Outside of his work at Marquette, Chris serves as a sexual violence prevention consultant. In his free time, Chris enjoys running and hiking, and kayaking in the Milwaukee River as much as possible!

Lilith grew up in California where fly-fishing with her dad gave her a life-long appreciation for rivers. Since moving to Milwaukee in 2000, Lilith has been actively involved in Milwaukee's non-profit community in many capacities - staff, board, and volunteer. She enjoys gardening, exploring the world with her two children, and playing ultimate frisbee with her husband.



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**Demaris Kenwood**  
Interim Administrator

**Cheryl Nenn, M.S.**  
Riverkeeper

**Joe Rath, M.A.**  
Water Quality Specialist

**Christina Taddy**  
Membership &  
Communications Coordinator

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# Your Board of Directors

## A message from Demaris Kenwood, Interim Administrator

My inspiration to work for Milwaukee Riverkeeper and serve on the Board came from my love of hiking and biking by the rivers and from a speech I heard Bobby Kennedy give at UWM in 2006. His passionate love of waterways and his concern about water quality for future generations motivated me to join Milwaukee Riverkeeper's efforts to protect the rivers. From having worked for Milwaukee Riverkeeper managing their "Going with the Flow" stormwater education program and organizing conferences in the past, I knew from the inside, that Milwaukee Riverkeeper's dedicated staff was effective. It was an honor to be asked to serve on the Board and I am grateful for the opportunity to take part as Interim Administrator in the work that allows the organization to stand up for the rivers.

The Board consists of twelve community members who meet bimonthly to review what has been done and what needs to be done to keep the organization running

smoothly. They assist the staff through committee work, discussing and voting on issues, fund raising, event planning, and fiscal oversight. The Board members bring legal, business, organization, networking, development, management, finance and other expertise to the table and work closely with the Executive Director and staff through committees.

Current committees include: the River Advocacy Committee, which meets with our Riverkeeper to keep updated on issues affecting river health; the Board Development Committee, which recommends appointments to the Board; the Resource Development Committee which plans fund raising activities; and the Finance Committee which reviews the budget. Ad hoc committees have been created on an "as needed basis"-- last year an ad hoc committee planned the very successful 40th Anniversary of the Clean Water Act Celebration and Art Contest at Discovery World.



Demaris with her father at the 2013 Kinnickinnic Fall Cleanup.

Milwaukee Riverkeeper has a history of active board membership and two past Board members have become Executive Directors-Lynn Broaddus and Karen Schapiro. Several Board members, such as Susan Winecki whose term ended this October, have served for over nine years.

It has been a pleasure for me to serve on the Board for two years. The entire Board volunteers their time and serves with enthusiasm to advance the mission of creating fishable, swimmable rivers for Milwaukee.

## Thank You New Members! July - October 2013

|                         |                            |                                  |                               |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Janet Anderson          | Janice & William Davis     | Mary & James Kasum               | Bob & Michele Marak           |
| James & Bette Berger    | Thomas Deer                | Lynnea Katz-Petted & Paul Petted | Douglas Quigley               |
| Duane Binder            | Kelly Fleming              | Liz Keuler                       | Joe Rath                      |
| Sue Braun & Greg Hyland | Ken France                 | Kimberly Knetz                   | Darold & Dorothy Treffert     |
| Donald & Betty Carlson  | Paul & Patricia Haislmaier |                                  | Representative Tony Zielinski |

## Thank You Returning Members! July - October 2013

|                               |                                   |                                 |                             |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Dorothy Beck                  | Edith Gilman                      | Patrick & Catherine McGinn      | Donna Schlieman             |
| Dorothy & Paul Boyer          | Elizabeth Handle                  | John & Sharon Muendel           | William Smith               |
| Larry & Susan Brumm           | James Harris & Mary Brehm         | Barbara & James Noonan          | Ann Terwilliger             |
| Gilbert & Sinikka Church      | Mike & Judy Howden                | Gerald & Marjorie Pagel         | Kay & Jerry Ulschmid        |
| Patricia Coccia & John Sekula | Mary Kniep                        | The Pavletic Household          | Anne & Fred Vogel           |
| Thomas Donegan                | Nancy Lurie                       | Joe Pfiffner                    | Lisa & Benjamin Waisbren    |
| David Drake                   | Lou & Mariann Maris               | Warren & Dorothy Phinney        | Representative Josh Zepnick |
| Evan & Samuel Emmons          | Jeff Martinka                     | Pamela Pletcher & Robert French |                             |
| Kristie Fischer               | Peter McAvoy & Jacqueline Boynton | Bill & Eva Rumpf                |                             |

# Swimming Upstream



The Old Ford Road in Hoyt Park pictured above was identified as a significant barrier in Wauwatosa. MMSD is currently working to remove it!

Throughout 2011 and 2012, Milwaukee Riverkeeper identified fish passage impediments and opportunities for aquatic habitat restoration in the Menomonee River Watershed. Our final findings are now available!

**Over 382 potential barriers were identified and assessed, with 126 of those found to be significant.**

In addition, 75 areas of potential spawning habitat for northern pike and other native fish were identified.

There are excellent opportunities to address many natural and human

caused barriers to fish passage and connect native fishes like northern pike with suitable areas of upstream habitat for spawning. We hope to help fundraise to remove fish passage impediments and to help advocate for government agencies to use their capital funds to improve fish passage and habitat.

Visit our website to see maps with the location of impediments, photos, and potential aquatic habitat restoration opportunities: <http://www.milwaukeekeeper.org/content/fish-passage-impediment-project>

## Waukesha Still Planning to Tap Into Lake Michigan, Continued from page 1

Compact Implementation Coalition, which consists of conservation and environmental organizations working for effective implementation of the Great Lakes Compact in Wisconsin. The Coalition is not for or against diversions of water from the Great Lakes basin but rather our goal is to protect the integrity of the Compact.

After years of attempting to work with the City of Waukesha on evaluating water supply options for the City, and offering constructive suggestions for its diversion application, the revised application still does not meet several of the basic requirements of the Great Lakes Compact.

### Examples of some major deficiencies of the revised application are:

- The City of Waukesha has not made a compelling case that it is without a reasonable local water supply alternative (as other local alternatives exist) and that it has no other options, therefore, it does not meet the exception standard of the Compact;
- The City does not fully employ conservation measures available to

reduce its water need;

- The City seeks water for a greatly expanded service area that includes communities or portions of communities that have their own adequate supplies of potable water, and they have not been implementing any conservation programs; and
- The City proposes to discharge treated wastewater into a waterway that is already impaired by pollution and does not demonstrate how this would comply with the requirements of the Clean Water Act, which states there can be no “new” or “increased” discharge to impaired waterways.

In reviewing the City of Waukesha’s application, Wisconsin’s Department of Natural Resources (DNR) should address these and other deficiencies in the City of Waukesha’s application in a straightforward manner. The Department should ensure that these issues are fully resolved and in compliance with the Great Lakes Compact. **If the outstanding issues are not resolved, the DNR should not**

### approve this application.

The DNR has indicated that it will accept **written comments on the new application until December 2, 2013**. Comments can be emailed to: [DNRWaukeshaDiversionApp@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DNRWaukeshaDiversionApp@wisconsin.gov).

The DNR will consider these public comments as well as those Waukesha collects at four informational public meetings, in its final technical review of the application and creation of a draft environmental impact statement. We expect that the DNR will hold public hearings on the technical review and environmental impact statement early in 2014.

For more information on public meetings or to get updates on this issue, please visit our website at: <http://milwaukeekeeper.org/content/waukesha-diversion>. Also, consider being added to our Riverkeeper News or friend us on Facebook to get more up-to date information on this and other issues affecting our rivers and Lake Michigan.

# 2012 River Report Card...A Sneak Peak!

Milwaukee Riverkeeper is in the final stages of completing the 2012 Milwaukee River Report Card for the Milwaukee River Basin, which stretches across 6 counties and includes the Milwaukee, Menomonee and Kinnickinnic (KK) Rivers and their tributaries.

Milwaukee Riverkeeper volunteers collect the majority of monthly stream data in our basin. The Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) collects extensive stream data within their service area (primarily the Menomonee, KK and Milwaukee Rivers in Milwaukee County), which they graciously share with us for this report. The report card also includes DNR data from their periodic stream water monitoring in our Basin.

Our full results will be published soon in our third annual

Milwaukee River Report Card. Early tallies show grades fairly similar to the last report card. Of the parameters we monitor, dissolved oxygen, pH, and water temperature consistently meet acceptable standards. Unfortunately, high levels of phosphorus, conductivity / chloride, bacteria, and turbidity continue to be detrimental to water quality and aquatic life. Milwaukee Riverkeeper continues to advocate for policies, practices, and projects to limit these pollutants and will continue to monitor the success of these efforts.

While no watershed or subwatershed earned a failing grade, a few continue to fall well below average. There's a way to go yet, but we will continue to fight tooth and nail to improve water quality until we reach the swimmable, fishable, drinkable standards laid out in the Clean Water Act. Are you with us?!!



Collecting a Sample



Measuring Turbidity



Checking pH and Temperature

## Healing Our Waters: Breweries & BMP's

Milwaukee was filled with Great Lakes advocates during the 2013 Healing Our Waters - Great Lakes Coalition's Annual Conference. Healing Our Waters (HOW) consists of more than 125 environmental, conservation, and recreation organizations that have a common goal to restore and protect the Great Lakes. Milwaukee Riverkeeper participated on a panel and led a field trip for participants!

HOW played a key role in creating the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, which has supported hundreds of restoration projects that are healing the Lakes. Milwaukee Riverkeeper has been involved with HOW since the beginning because our rivers drain to Lake Michigan, and because of our work to help achieve clean, swimmable, fishable, and drinkable water for our community.

At the conference, Riverkeeper Cheryl Nenn participated, with Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett and *Great Lakes Water Wars* author Peter Annin, on a panel discussing Waukesha's proposed Great Lakes diversion. The panel sought to educate Great Lakes advocates so they could serve as a resource to their respective States should Waukesha's application be approved and forwarded by Wisconsin. You can watch the

panel discussion as well as other sessions from the HOW conference at [greatlakesnow.org](http://greatlakesnow.org).

Milwaukee Riverkeeper also hosted a field trip for participants visiting Milwaukee to show off our city. On the fast paced pub crawl, called "Lakefront to Lakefront: Breweries and BMP's," participants visited rain gardens, stormwater parks, green roofs and breweries around Milwaukee while, of course, enjoying some of the best Milwaukee brews.





# RIVERKEEPER WATCH

From the log book of the Milwaukee Riverkeeper

## Seawall Replacement Permits

Milwaukee Riverkeeper has submitted comments on several seawall replacement permits for the Water Council's Reed Street Yards project as well as for a new housing development at 1887 N. Water Street.

In both cases, we were very concerned by removal of trees and planned riparian habitat in order to allow for seawall replacement. In some ways, this is unavoidable; however, we met with Milwaukee officials on two occasions to discuss these projects, and had hoped that one of the wooded shorelines at Reed Street Yards would be saved. Sadly, all riparian trees have been removed at the site.

The 1887 North Water development plans include removing all trees at that site (north of the former Gallun Tannery). WDNR issued the seawall permit for that project, and the site was too small to trigger Milwaukee's stormwater or flood control regulations that would have required more innovative practices to protect water quality. That entire site will be clearcut.

There is hope though that by working with the City we can better plan future development projects along North Water Street (stretching from the former Gallun Tannery to the naturally wooded shoreline across from Lakefront Brewery) to better protect natural vegetation where it exists and to provide river access and continuity of the RiverWalk in a way that honors major changes in topography as well as the river.

## Charter Steel to Fill Wetland

In late July, Milwaukee Riverkeeper testified against plans by Charter Steel to fill in 2.7 acres of wetland that drain to a tributary of the Milwaukee River in Saukville. The wetland provides good water storage for rain events equivalent to a 10-year storm, as well as provides habitat for birds and amphibians.

When determining if a fill is justified, DNR must consider other existing, practicable alternatives, which would avoid adverse impacts to wetlands and the functional value they provide. Charter Steel owns extensive property upland and abutting this site, which could be used for storing

steel coils, thus avoiding the need to fill in the wetland. They will be required to upgrade an existing wetland mitigation site that is not functioning well.

Milwaukee Riverkeeper would have likely contested this permit, but never received notification from DNR that it had been issued within the legal time allowed for appeal.

## Public Hearing on the Valley Power Plant Conversion

Milwaukee Riverkeeper is part of the Cleaner Milwaukee Coalition which has requested the Public Service Commission (or PSC) to set a public hearing on the Valley Power Plant Conversion from coal to natural gas in early November. While the Coalition supports the conversion of Valley to natural gas, we have concerns over We Energies' preferred alternative, which would not decouple steam and electricity generation at this plant.

While the Valley plant was initially created for electricity generation, it is now used primarily for steam creation. Due to its current design, it still generates excess electricity which is largely discharged to the river in the form of waste heat.

While decoupling would cost an additional \$70 million, we feel this is warranted because over the long term the Valley Plant will waste more costly natural gas, create unnecessary greenhouse gases, discharge more thermal pollution to our rivers, and unnecessarily harm or kill more aquatic life. More info here: <http://www.milwaukeekeeper.org/content/testify-public-service-commission-valley-power-plant-conversion>

## ChemWorks

Milwaukee Riverkeeper and many community partners have been monitoring ChemWorks (aka Advance Waste Services) for years. They have incurred extensive violations of their pretreatment permit for wastewater discharge to MMSD as well as fugitive odor emissions that are harming quality of life in the Martin Drive Neighborhood and causing evacuations at Miller Brewing Company.

Midwest Environmental Advocates even filed a notice of intent to sue this facility



Cheryl Nenn, Milwaukee Riverkeeper

on our behalf, which was complicated by subsequent MMSD enforcement actions taken against this company. The City of Milwaukee is finally cracking down on the facility to make changes to deal with these issues, which are now making their way through the Milwaukee Appeals Board. There is hope that the facility will finally make major changes, as well as talk that they may move operations to another facility in the Menomonee River Watershed.

## County Grounds

The County Grounds continue to be affected by both creation of UWM's Innovation Park (or Engineering Campus), as well as by creation of Discovery Parkway (or "highway"), which is a reliever route to the Zoo Interchange construction efforts. To add insult to injury, WisDOT attempted to site concrete crushing operations for the Zoo Interchange construction on property that is slated for the future Forest Exploration Center.

It seems that after Friends of the Monarch Trail, Milwaukee Riverkeeper, and others raised concerns, this will no longer be happening. Although, the future site of the "crunching" operations is now proposed for the northwest corner of the Innovation Park site, which provides excellent monarch habitat.

## Pipeline Spills

We continue to follow events surrounding the jet fuel airport spill, as well as the pipeline repair project near Jackson, WI, which impacts Cedar Creek as well as the Jackson Marsh. The West Shore Pipeline Company is replacing a pipe section that runs below the bed of Cedar Creek, and is repairing several pipeline sections south of Jackson Marsh. Joe from our staff has been monitoring water quality downstream of the Marsh.

# SWAN Tour Touches Environmental Hearts & Stomachs

By Dale Olen

Our last SWAN Bus Tour took an interested group of advocates to learn about growing and eating food produced here in Milwaukee. We visited Will Allen's Growing Power, Westlawn Housing Development's vegetable gardens, and finally Braise Restaurant.

At Growing Power, our tour guide Andre gave us an inspiring and informative tour of the facility. He showed us how making good soil is their number one priority. Growing Power collects stormwater runoff for re-use, powers operations by use of solar panels, and uses and reuses every part of every plant to grow their

produce and keep their fish farms (lake perch and tilapia) thriving.

Around noon we drove over to the Westlawn Housing Development on 60th and Silver Spring to see the community gardens Growing Power helped develop. Westlawn also has excellent stormwater management and energy efficiency features.

Finally, we crossed town to Braise Restaurant for lunch. Braise is considered one of the five best Milwaukee area restaurants according to food critic, Carol Deptolla. And we found out why. The food was very fresh and healthy. Some of it came from Growing Power and other local producers, and some came

from Braise's own rooftop garden. Dave Swanson, owner and chef at Braise, talked with us after lunch about the RSA (Restaurant Supported Agriculture) system that he set up in Milwaukee with about 25 other restaurants. Local producers send their products to a collection point, and work with each restaurant to fulfill each restaurant's needs and preferences.



A new aquaponics system at Growing Power

## Riverkeeper Happenings

- Milwaukee Riverkeeper partnered with Leinenkugel's for the 2nd annual Canoes for a Cause event. Volunteers spent a few hours cleaning up Lincoln Creek and then had a party to celebrate their hard work!
- In July, a group of about 50 individuals traveled down the Milwaukee River by moonlight at the annual Milky Moonlight Paddle with River Alliance.
- Milwaukee Riverkeeper awarded the 2013 River Hero awards at the annual celebration event. This year's awardees were Menomonee Valley Partners, Rotary Club of Milwaukee, Inc., and Urban Ecology Center for their excellent work advancing the Rotary Centennial Arboretum and Menomonee Valley's Three Bridges Park.
- On October 5th, over 50 volunteers joined Sixteenth Street Community Health Center and Milwaukee Riverkeeper to clean up the Kinnickinnic River and surrounding neighborhoods.
- In October a group of high school students from North Dakota came to visit Wisconsin and spent some time cleaning up the Menomonee River in Hoyt Park.



## Riverkeeper Watch, Continued from page 6

### Barrier Removal

On the good news front, this fall MMSD and its contractors began removing concrete from the bed of the Menomonee River upstream from Miller Park. The contractors are making excellent progress,

and have already removed the first 100 feet of concrete. Ultimately, over 2,200 feet of concrete will be removed during this phase of the project from the I-94 crossing to Wisconsin Avenue. The river is currently bypassed in a pipe along the flood wall. A permitted discharge from Miller Coors

Brewery is also being bypassed or pumped, as it normally enters the river in a now dewatered section. It's important to dissuade residents, especially kids, from using this section of the river due to safety concerns! Please pass the word!

# Thank you to our volunteer stream monitors!

We had another fantastic year in 2013!

This past year, 80 volunteers monitored water quality at nearly 100 sites throughout the Milwaukee River Basin. We monitor sites in six counties, including three major watersheds (Menomonee, Kinnickinnic and Milwaukee Rivers) and four major subwatersheds within the Milwaukee River Watershed (Cedar Creek as well as the East & West Branches, North Branch, and South Branch of the Milwaukee River).

We train volunteer stream monitors each spring, on a Saturday in late April or early May. Our RSVP list is quite large at this time, so please contact us soon with your interest if you'd like to be trained to be a part of our 2014 crew. All that's needed is to be comfortable in and around streams, to be able to commit to monitoring at least once per month from May through October, and to have a key interest in learning how to monitor and improve water quality in our area.

If interested, please contact Joe Rath, Water Quality Specialist at [joe\\_rath@milwaukeekeeper.org](mailto:joe_rath@milwaukeekeeper.org) or 414-287-0207x4.



Volunteer monitors search samples from the river to identify macroinvertebrates as part of Level 1 monitoring.

**SAVE THE DATE: When you buy your 2014 calendar, mark Saturday, April 26th as the Annual Spring River Cleanup!**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

*Member of Waterkeeper Alliance*

[www.milwaukeekeeper.org](http://www.milwaukeekeeper.org)

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