



Seehafer Farm  
McMillan

# COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

## Big Eau Pleine Reservoir & Watershed Update

Andy Johnson, Conservation, Planning and Zoning

In the aftermath of the fish kill this past spring, several agencies and associations have organized to develop both short-term and long-term plans to address the chronic water quality concerns associated with the Big Eau Pleine River Watershed.

To date, the Big Eau Pleine Citizens Organization (BEPCO), WI Department of Natural Resources, Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company (WVIC), and Marathon County are participating in the planning effort.

The group will also be communicating with local, state and federal elected officials and agricultural interests to assure that they are informed and engaged.

In the next 24 months, the group intends to develop and submit a short term Strategic Plan that addresses the immediate reservoir concerns including:

- Short-term aerator system plan
- Commitment of all agencies and partners to a scope of work to address water quality and quantity issues

- A historical review of the governmental programs and regulations that have been initiated in the watershed to address the water quality problems and to evaluate their outcomes.

It is the intent of the work group to forge partnerships and to identify strategies that recognize and respect the multiple interests with the soil and water resources, as well as protect the health and well being of both people and the local fisheries.

## Marathon County to host 2011 Farm Technology Days

Mary Kluz, UW-Extension

The state's largest outdoor agriculture show is coming to the Town of McMillan in 2011. Farm Technology Days is an annual event that showcases technology and research in agriculture. The event will be held July 12-14 on the Ken and Karen Seehafer farm on Highway 97 in the Town of McMillan.

Marathon County is already involved in the planning for an estimated 80,000 visitors, by organizing to provide facilities, education, and transportation.

Volunteers are needed for a variety of committees to develop a successful show.

To learn more about volunteer opportunities:

Mike Wildeck  
UW-Extension  
715-261-1239  
[michael.wildeck@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:michael.wildeck@ces.uwex.edu)

You can also visit the UW-Extension website: [marathon.uwex.edu](http://marathon.uwex.edu)

### Special points of interest:

- Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) comment period ends August 25.
- Open enrollment period for National Flood Insurance Program begins late 2009.
- Private well water testing and chlorination helps to ensure safe drinking water.
- Contact Andy Johnson in CPZ if you would like to serve on a citizen's advisory committee for the development of the Land and Water Resource Management Plan.

# Refreshments in Ringle: Bluebird Ridge Recycling and Disposal Facility Open House

Meleesa Johnson, Solid Waste Department

The Solid Waste Management Board and Department are proud to introduce plans for the newest Wisconsin landfill: Bluebird Ridge Recycling and Disposal Facility. Bluebird Ridge will serve central Wisconsin with a wide variety of waste reduction and recycling programs, as well as waste disposal services.

Keeping in mind the critical goal of minimizing negative impacts to local ecosystems, Bluebird Ridge, previously intended to be nearly a 70 acre landfill, has been scaled back to just 30 acres. Key to this strategy is a plan for greater recycling, composting and reuse programming.

As a part of this introduction to Bluebird Ridge, the public is invited to an open house, complete with food, beverages and door prizes. The open house is scheduled for Monday August 24<sup>th</sup>.

On display will be a scale model of the 532-acre site and an interactive model of Bluebird Ridge. The public will be invited to walk the Ringle Glacial Bluebird Trail, hike the rough trail to Bluebird Ridge construction area or tour the landfills. Waste reduction experts are slated to attend, as well as engineers involved with Bluebird Ridge.

Visit us for some *Refreshments in Ringle* and learn about the future of waste materials management!

## Open House

Location:  
Marathon County Solid Waste Dept. & Landfill  
R18500 E. Highway 29,  
Ringle

Date: August 24  
Time: 4:00-7:00 PM

## Shingle Recycling Program

Meleesa Johnson, Solid Waste Department

Every year, the Department of Natural Resources estimates that nearly 286,000 ton of roofing shingles are landfilled. However, asphalt shingles can be easily recycled into road asphalt.

The concept is simple: shingle tear-offs and new scraps are gathered, then instead of landfilling, they are sent to a shingle recycling program. The shingles are shredded and nails are removed.

The ground shingles are added to road asphalt. Users of this program will pay a **lower tipping fee** than they would by putting shingles in the landfill! And who doesn't want to save money?

In order to ensure the success of the shingle recycling program, all shingles must be free of garbage and recyclables. Individuals may sort these materials from the

shingles at the roofing site, or can opt to sort out at the landfill. Regular fees apply to garbage/debris.

For more information on official start date, fees and regulations:  
715-446-3339



## Timber Sale Planned To Create The Bluebird Ridge Landfill

Tom Lovlien, Parks Recreation & Forestry

The Forestry Division of the Marathon County Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department is currently completing a shrub and tree inventory on the land that will need to be cleared for the new Bluebird Ridge Recycling and Disposal Facility.

The data gathered will be used to establish a timber sale.

Trees harvested by a professional logger may be milled and re-used on site for informational kiosks or in conjunction with construction of an environmental/education/office recycling center; potential Town of Ringle projects, sold to lumber companies or local paper mills, or offered to local artisans.

The objective of this sale is to have the trees harvested with the least amount of impact on the environment, while protecting sensitive species.

The Solid Waste Department will also be receiving recommendations from a full assessment on the entire landfill property and this information may be used to further enhance the vegetative resource.

# Flood Insurance Rate Maps

Diane Wessel, Conservation, Planning & Zoning

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recently remapped the Flood Insurance Rate Maps. These maps identify areas prone to flooding.

Before the newly updated maps are finalized, there is a 90 day comment period which began on May 27. It is important that property owners and residents have an opportunity to review these maps. FEMA sent incorporated communities the maps on a disk in November, 2008.

The areas most affected by changes to floodplain boundaries are Bull Junior Creek, Eau Claire River and Wisconsin River in the following communities:

- City of Mosinee
- Town of Mosinee
- Schofield
- City of Wausau
- Kronenwetter
- Rothschild

**All** communities are encouraged to provide an opportunity for residents to view the maps before the comment period closes on August 25.

Most mortgage holders require flood insurance for properties in areas identified as flood-prone on the maps.

**Most homeowners and business insurance policies do not cover loss from flooding.** Property that is in the newly mapped floodplain area but not in a floodplain on previous maps may be eligible to acquire flood insurance at a lower rate if they do so before the maps are finalized.

If you need assistance viewing your maps, contact the Conservation, Planning and Zoning Department, 715-261-6040



Lake Delton, WI  
U.S. Air Force

# National Flood Insurance Program

Diane Wessel, Conservation, Planning, and Zoning

## What is NFIP?

The NFIP is a Federal program enabling property owners in participating communities to purchase insurance protection against losses from flooding.

## Who should participate?

All incorporated communities and Marathon County. Unincorporated communities are participants through Marathon County.

## Why should communities participate?

If a community doesn't participate, residents cannot obtain NFIP flood insurance, existing policies will lapse and not be renewed, many federal grants and loans will be unavailable, disaster assistance will be limited, and the local governing body could be held liable for damage due to flooding.

For information on flood insurance:  
Gary Heinrichs: 608-266-3093  
gary.heinrichs@dnr.state.wi.us

## How do we participate?

Once the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) are finalized, there is a 6 month open enrollment period for communities to participate in NFIP. To participate, incorporated communities must:

- Adopt the finalized FIRM
- Adopt floodplain zoning regulations

Even if your community is currently participating in NFIP, to continue participation, **your board/council must take action!**

# When to Chlorinate Your Well

Lindsay Benaszkeski, Health Department

Half of Marathon County residents get drinking water from a private well. We recommend an annual laboratory well water test to tell you whether the water is safe or unsafe.

For further information, contact the Marathon County Health Department at 715-261-1908.

Wells can test unsafe for several reasons needing chlorination (disinfection) to kill bacteria in the water. Chlorination should occur after new well construction; repairing or replacing a well pump; or after interior plumbing work. Well casing caps and wiring conduit should be in good condition and other unsanitary construction features repaired prior to disinfection.

It is important to remember while chlorination can correct immediate bacteria problems in a well; the source of the bacteria needs to be addressed for long-term drinking water safety.



# Community Connections

Marathon County CPZ  
210 River Drive  
Wausau, WI 54403-5449

Nonprofit  
US Postage  
PAID  
Permit #186  
Wausau, WI

## A PERIODIC NEWSLETTER BY THE MARATHON COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE AND ITS DEPARTMENTS

Conservation, Planning & Zoning: 261-6040  
Health: 261-1900  
Highway: 261-1800  
Parks, Recreation & Forestry: 261-1550  
Solid Waste: 446-3339  
UW-Extension: 261-1230

The Marathon County Environmental Resources Committee provides guidance on policies and strategies that balance, protect and enhance environmental and community resources through cooperation with all levels of government.

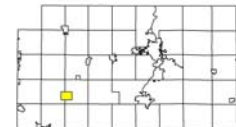
We're on the Web!  
[www.co.marathon.wi.us](http://www.co.marathon.wi.us)

## We Need Community Input!

The Land Conservation and Zoning Committee is seeking participants to serve on a citizen's advisory committee for the development of the Land and Water Resource Management Plan. The committee will consider topics of watershed conservation, agricultural environmental regulations, lake protection, farmland preservation, and managed intensive grazing. If you are interested in serving on the committee, contact Andy Johnson with the Conservation, Planning and Zoning Department for more information and details.

## Neighborhood Connections Stratford's Heritage Trail

June Krueger, Village of Stratford Clerk



The Village of Stratford was recently awarded two DNR matching grants to assist in the construction of Phase One of a recreational trail system. Stratford's Heritage Trail -- in three phases -- will ultimately link the school forest, Klemme Reserve, FFA Park, Knoll Fitness Center, and other recreation facilities. Phase One is planned near the Village's Business/Industrial Park and the 73-acre conservancy area -- perfect for enjoying nature. Similar trails throughout Wisconsin have enriched the overall health and well-being of residents and are proven assets to local economies.

Heritage Trail will be handicap accessible with a crushed rock surface for non-motorized recreation. Trailside benches, picnic and parking areas are planned. Much of Phase One will be located on village lands, with several owners generously providing recreation easements for their private property. Trail construction is planned to begin later in 2009; boardwalks will be built in the wetland areas during winter dormancy. Individuals and groups will be invited for "community work days" throughout the construction period. Phase One is anticipated to open in 2010 assuming adequate funds can be raised for the project.

The early cost estimate for Phase One is \$500,000. The DNR grants will match up to \$250,000, leaving \$250,000 to be raised locally. Contributions eligible for DNR matching funds may be financial or as donated labor, equipment or products. Over \$30,000 has already been raised through the efforts of an appointed ad hoc trail committee.

A "Friends of the Trail" group will be established to maintain Stratford's Heritage Trail as a permanent community asset.

More information, including a donor card can be found at our website: [www.stratfordwi.com](http://www.stratfordwi.com) or by calling the Village: 715-687-4166

