



Little Plover River Community Currents

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SPRINGVILLE POND RESIDENTS CONCERNED

The Little Plover River's flow rate is a concern of Springville Pond residents. Springville Pond, located in the Village of Plover, is a 100 year old mill pond fed by the Little Plover River. Under normal conditions, the pond supports a wide variety of wildlife including several species of ducks, kingfishers, Green and Blue Herons, Osprey, turtles, frogs, a variety of fish and even an occasional otter.

A recent survey concerning the water quality in Springville Pond, distributed to over 60 riparian landowners, indicated the residents believed the dramatic decrease in the Little Plover River's flow rate was the number one contributing factor to the decline in the Pond's water quality.

Over the last 30 years the average flow rate of the Little Plover River has been 10 cubic feet per second (cfs). Since May 2005 (except for a brief snow melt period earlier this year) the flow rate in the Little Plover River has NOT been greater than 4 cfs and has dropped to lower than 2 cfs on several occasions. In both 2005 and 2006 parts of the Little Plover went dry. When flow rates into Springville Pond fall below 4 cfs, the level in the pond drops daily even with all gates in the dam closed.

The survey results indicate that pond residents are also concerned that low flow rates in the Little Plover River accelerate other factors, such as fertilizer use and rapid growth of invasive non-native plant species, that diminish the water quality in the pond.

Source: Springville Pond Survey Results, UWSP Center for Watershed Service and Education, December 2006



Little Plover River at Bluebird Road April 2007

1st Annual LITTLE PLOVER RIVER APPRECIATION DAY

May 4, 2007
11:00 am to 3:00 pm
Little Plover River Park

The Friends of the Little Plover River are holding the first Little Plover River Appreciation Day this coming May. One hundred and fifty students from Roosevelt Elementary and Plover/Whiting Elementary will be attending. While at the Park students will have a chance to do a number of activities that have water recreation, conservation and educational themes. Some of the activities include fly-tying and fishing, trout and macro invertebrate viewing, and simulations of the water cycle.

If you would like to volunteer to help out on May 4th, please call Jodi at 715-343-6221.

LITTLE PLOVER RIVER WORKGROUP EFFORTS

The Little Plover River Workgroup continues to meet and implement projects to help restore a healthy flow to the River. The Workgroup is made up of: "Friends of the Little Plover River", Villages of Plover and Whiting, UWSP, DNR, Portage County, Trout Unlimited, Del Monte, Stora Enso, Neenah Paper, several area potato and vegetable growers and WI River Alliance, along with advisory support from: WI Wildlife Federation, WI Geologic and Natural History Survey, USGS, USDA-NRCS, US EPA, Golden Sands RC&D, Rural Water Association and Earth Tech.

One of the early efforts by the group was obtaining pumping information from high capacity well users so George Kraft of UWSP could run a groundwater model and determine impacts from pumping. WI DNR is contributing funds to the modeling effort. With most of the modeling complete, the Workgroup can now develop activities and make science-based decisions, which will be through the completion of a watershed management plan. The Village of Plover has installed two gauging stations and is monitoring River flow so they know when to reduce pumping from their two wells closest to the River. Area potato and vegetable growers are communicating with each other so high water demanding crops will not be grown on all riparian fields in any one year. One area grower is discussing a potential wetland restoration project with NRCS, the County and the Village of Plover. Another grower has offered the use of a well to redistribute water into the river as a temporary emergency measure to insure that the river does not dry up again. Earth Tech is coordinating a project between the County, Village of Plover, Del Monte and two growers to pump cooling water from Del Monte to a pond near the headwaters of the river, which will recharge the river via groundwater. The County and Village of Plover have partnered on submitting several grant applications to assist with the implementation of activities. WI DOT has funding available for wetland restoration and watershed protection/enhancement in the Little Plover River watershed.

For further information on the Workgroup, contact Steve Bradley, Portage County Conservationist, at 715-346-1334.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

May 14, 2007
June 11, 2007
July 9, 2007

All meetings are scheduled
4:30 to 6:00 pm.

Meetings are held at the
Portage County Annex
building:
1462 Strongs Avenue
Stevens Point
Conference Room #5

For directions call
715-343-6221



JOIN US!

Improving the health of the Little Plover River is a community project. The Friends of the Little Plover River have come together to work towards the goal of protecting and educating the community about this gem of a stream for future generations.

Friends of the Little Plover River

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Little Plover River August 2005

