

Coon Creek Community

Watershed Council learns of future initiatives

By GILLIAN POMPLUN
The Driftless Region is home to a bounty of watershed councils, with active groups in the Tainter Creek, Rush Creek, Bad Axe River and Coon Creek watersheds.

Increasingly, the groups are finding ways to work together and maximize funding, time and resources to better put conservation projects on the landscape, amplify their message, and engage in organizational development.

Nancy Wedwick, President of the Coon Creek Community Watershed Council (CCCWC), shared some exciting news for collaborative efforts at the group's February 1 meeting.

Wedwick informed the group they have received a \$60,000 Wisconsin Idea Collaboration Grant. This grant will launch an effort where the watershed council will partner with the UW-Madison English Department, and UW-Madison Planning and Landscape Architecture Department; Natural Resources Institute UW-Extension, Organizational and Leadership Development; and Extension Lakes at UW-Stevens Point.

This two year grant will be used for the purposes of building organizational capacity and leadership in all of the watershed councils, supporting CCCWC planning work, developing a toolkit for community-led organizations to use when working on critical issues, strengthening connections among the universities and UW-Extension, and growing support for the cross-sector watershed organizations.

"Our sister watershed councils, Tainter Creek Farmer-Led Watershed Council, Bad Axe Watershed Stewards and Rush Creek Watershed Conservation Council will each receive stipends for their participation in organizational capacity building," Wedwick explained. "We are benefiting from extensive in-kind contributions from UW-

Madison, UW-Stevens Point, and UW-Extension."

Wedwick also shared that Valley Stewardship Network (VSN) VSN has applied for a 'Fishers and Farmers' grant to continue support for the further development of watershed councils, and our joint watershed council collaborations, to support the CCCWC watershed planning process, and to support the development of youth participation and activities across watersheds.

In addition, with Drs. Caroline Gottschalk-Druschke and Anna Andrzejewski of UW-Madison and the 'Greener Pastures' group, CCCWC applied for a Reilly Baldwin Wisconsin Idea Grant to continue the group's oral narrative project, build from the narratives to support their strategic planning efforts, and create a suite of public-facing materials to increase watershed literacy such as podcasts, online stories, articles for news outlets, storymaps and more.

Wedwick took some time to explain why these oral narratives are so important.

"When we begin work on the EPA nine-element watershed plan, all of the research and studies and reports in the watershed will be collected and analyzed," Wedwick told the group. "These oral narratives will be part of that collection. Traditionally, watershed planning is understood as a scientific undertaking of research and projects to improve the quality of water. In a new and innovative strategy for watershed planning, these narratives will become part of the base foundation in the catalogue of research and reports that has been completed or is still ongoing in the watershed. These narratives will be used to help create the characteristics of the Coon Creek Watershed, and to inform the action plan for improvement. In other words, the voices of this watershed will interact with the scientists and engineers,

weaving social science and anthropological threads into the fabric of scientific study and planning. This is a way for the people of this watershed to be heard by policy-makers at all levels."

Student projects

The group heard messages from undergraduate students in Gottschalk-Druschke's class at UW-Madison who worked on the oral histories project, and viewed a painting by one of the students that will be on display in watershed council member Danika Wehling's store in Coon Valley. The students also created a watershed board game that is currently housed at the Coon Valley Conservation Club. Student projects will be unveiled at every meeting of the watershed council.

"The experience they had through Caroline's 'River Writing' class, and in coming here to learn and work on solutions for a very real world problem affected them deeply," Wedwick reported. "They will carry their memories of working with community members on a very real and serious problem with them, and will apply those to their own work in the future."

Wedwick said that the thoughtful and beautiful letters of thanks the group received from the students assures them that they have made a lasting impression on those young folks.

Wedwick said that the work is now transitioning to Caroline's graduate student class this semester. They will conduct interviews, transcribe the interviews, draw out the themes and lessons learned for the watershed council to use, and prepare the narratives to be archived at Oral History Project at UW-LaCrosse.

In other business

In other business the group:

• heard from Watershed Historian Marc Moilien that there is more elevation drop in the length of the Coon Creek Watershed (more than

700 feet in 22miles) than there is from the mouth of the Coon Creek to the mouth of the Mississippi River (less than 650 feet in about 1,700 miles). A conservation survey has established that the highest elevation in the Coon Creek Watershed is 1,362' feet near Cashton, and the elevation at the mouth of the Coon Creek is 646 feet

• heard a presentation from rural Cashton resident Andre Paquette of Firefly Farm and Mercantile about things that urban homeowners can do in their yards, and rural landowners who don't farm can do on their properties to increase watershed resilience and reduce the impacts of flooding

• heard that the group is working on their 'watershed plan' for which they received a grant, and that part of developing that plan is collecting all the research in the watershed and then analyzing it to learn more about the characteristics of the watershed, and identify gaps in research. Coon Creek will be the guinea pig and take the task on first, paving the way for their sister watersheds

• heard that the group had solicited logo drafts from three sources, Pete Hodapp, Keisha Caetano, and Proline, narrowed the possibilities down to two, and requested revisions for review at a future meeting

• heard that oral narrative collection meetings in the watershed are planned for Feb. 25-26 at the Coon Valley Conservation Club at 11 a.m., 12 p.m., 1 p.m., and 2 p.m. (three per hour), and participants will receive \$50 as a stipend

• heard that \$34,000 remains of the Ho-Chunk funds provided to the watershed council, and that this funding is targeted to 'on-the-ground' projects, especially perennial forage, but that some of that funding could be used for cover crops since they had more requests than we could fund last year.

instead such as fabrics and building materials. The Midwest Hemp Council's Justin Swanson agreed.

"The fiber and the grain industry is a huge, huge, untapped potential for farmers, and the one reason why it hasn't built up quicker really is just because CBD has been the rock star for so long," Swanson said.

Eva Tesfaye covers agriculture, food systems and rural issues for KCUR and Harvest Public Media and is a Report For America corps member.

This story was produced in partnership with Harvest Public Media, a collaboration of public media newsrooms in the Midwest. It reports on food systems, agriculture and rural issues. Follow Harvest on Twitter: @HarvestPM

U.S. farmers still waiting on USDA for CBD product regulation

Five years later

By EVA TESFAYE

Urban farmer Demarkius Medley stopped growing hemp partly because the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has not issued regulations for CBD.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration announced last month that it will not apply dietary supplement regulations to the hemp product CBD. The announcement has been frustrating for hemp farmers who have been waiting years for regulation.

Demarkius Medley, an urban farmer in Galesburg, Illinois, decided not to grow hemp last year, a crop that was at one point the most profitable part of his business.

Part of the reason for that is the lack of clarity around federal regulations for the hemp product cannabidiol, or CBD. He was hoping it might help if regulations were established this year by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

ministration.

"I had business opportunities that I could have been a part of, if food products could be infused with CBD that I've grown on my farm," said Medley.

However, the FDA recently decided that it will not regulate the hemp product CBD as a dietary supplement or food additive. Instead it will work with Congress to develop a new stronger framework for regulation.

The announcement comes five years after hemp was legalized by the Farm Bill in 2018. Since then, stores have been selling CBD-infused lotions, gummies, beverages and more in the U.S. without regulation.

"From a farmer's perspective, this really isn't the best news because we don't have the clarity that we've been asking for since, you know, the last five years," said Justin Swanson, president of the Midwest Hemp Council.

Hemp growers and CBD sellers were hoping the FDA would regulate CBD as a dietary supplement to stabilize a challenging and competitive industry and give customers confidence in their products.

"You could go to the gas station and get similar products that say CBD on them, but do you really know and are you that confident that they're gonna be as safe and effective as what they say?" said Zach Allen, co-owner of The Hemp Haus, a CBD store in Kansas City, Missouri.

"And a lot of those products on those shelves are not safe and not effective as they should be because there is no regulation."

A white set of shelves is lined with a variety of CBD products in a rainbow of colorful packaging.

The Hemp Haus in Kansas City, Missouri, does its own set of tests on its CBD products in the absence of formal regulation from the FDA.

Those in the industry now worry that bringing the issue to Congress will likely stall the process even further.

"I have to decide at a certain point if I'm going to plant or not, so I can't wait on Congress to decide if I can sell this product after I grow it," said Medley.

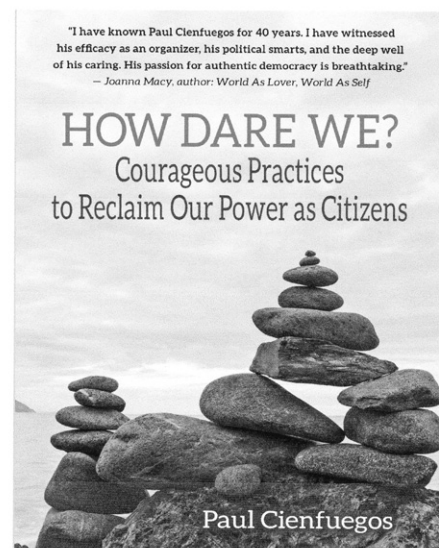
Dr. Janet Woodcock, the FDA's principal deputy commissioner, said that with the current scientific evidence available, it is not clear that CBD meets the agency's standards for dietary supplements and food additives. Studies that the agency looked at showed potential harm to the liver and the male reproductive system.

The agency raised concerns in particular about the product's effects on children, people who are pregnant or breastfeeding and those who are on other medications.

"There are some public health risks because this thing has been kind of viral now because more dispensaries keep opening," said Eleazar Gonzalez, an agricultural economics professor at the Lincoln University Hemp Institute.

He added that there is an opportunity for hemp growers to turn to fiber products

Author Talk: Paul Cienfuegos Saturday, Feb. 18, 2:00 p.m. Gays Mills Public Library



The book delves into Community Rights – the movement that prioritizes people's rights. The book brims with practical approaches to catastrophic climate destabilization and salmon restoration to renters' rights.

Gays Mills Library events

The Gay Mills Public Library has two interesting programs for adults planned for the second half of February. Author Paul Cienfuegos will be talking about his new book, 'How Dare We?' on Saturday, Feb. 18, at 2 p.m. And we'll have the second installment of 'Killer Crafts,' this time on Monday, Feb. 27, from 7-8:30 p.m. Come check them out! (And check out a bunch of library materials while you're at it.)

Land Transfers

Glasbrenner Farms LLC to Firari Joint Revocable Trust – Town of Marietta

George Dittmann to Cody Mullikin and Thomas Muliken Jr – Village of Wauzeka

Jason and Shayla Pickett to Senna Orr – Town of Scott

Thomas Moran to Enos and Barbara Kuhns – Town of Marietta

Ronald and Joanne Prew to Nathan and Brita Prew – Town of Eastman

Howard AV Roth to Anita and Anna Schmitz – Town of Bridgeport

Peter Flesch to Codie Dull – Town of Clayton

Strunz Trust to Ronald and Brenda Lee Williams – City of Prairie du Chien

Clement and Shelly Mainwaring to David Udelhoven – Village of Steuben

Walsh Family Estate LLC to Pumpkin Grove LLC – Town of Clayton

Lance and Judy Hernkind to David Lomas – Village of Gays Mills

Rudy and Alma Beachy Trust to Shawn and Elizabeth Moffett – Town of Clayton

No Trespassing LLC to Dan Mikkelson – Town of Freeman

Michael Groom to David Cooper – Village of Lynxville

Dannie and Lydia Hershberger to Joni and Elizabeth Gengerich – Town of Haney

Daniel and Christine Washchow to Whitetail Destination LLC – Village of Steuben

Rory Miles to Nicole Nelson – Village of Soldiers Grove

Ryan and Krystal Campbell to Wise Ventures LLC – Town of Clayton

Michael and Haley Stanley to Guy and Tamara Nelson – Town of Scott

Sun Valley Farm LLC to Ryan and Krystal Campbell – Town of Clayton

Kenneth Schultz to Vicky Larson – City of Prairie du Chien

Sharon Murphy to Ryan and Krystal Campbell – Town of Clayton

Opfer Family Living Trust to Harvey Kansaku Jr – City of Prairie du Chien

Joshua Moeck to Chadwick and Kimberly Kansier – Town of Prairie du Chien

James and Deanna Gilbreath to Allen and Debra Fredenberg – Town of Freeman

Moyna Holdings LLC to Beneker Farms Inc – Town of Bridgeport

Last year, one alarming poll revealed that 22 percent of millennials have never heard of the Holocaust. Another showed that two-thirds of Americans under the age of 40 do not know six million Jews were killed in the Holocaust. And a third proved that half can't name a single concentration camp. Wisconsin has a plan to ensure those numbers change. The Holocaust Education Bill, passed during the last legislative session, requires public schools cover the Holocaust and other genocides at least once in grades 5 to 8 and again in grades 9 to 12. Source: Up North News

CRAWFORD COUNTY

NOTICE OF LOCATION AND HOURS OF POLLING PLACES

At the election to be held on February 21, 2023 in the County of Crawford, following are the polling place locations:

Table with 2 columns: MUNICIPALITY and LOCATION. Lists polling locations for various towns and villages in Crawford County, including Bridgeport, Clayton, Eastman, Freeman, Haney, Marietta, Prairie du Chien, Scott, Seneca, Utica, Wauzeka, Bell Center, DeSoto, Eastman, Ferryville, Gays Mills, Lynxville, Sterling, Mt. Stierling, Steuben, and Wauzeka.

Polling places for all wards in the City of Prairie du Chien are located at Hoffman Hall, 1600 South Wacouta Avenue.

All polling places will open at 7:00 a.m. and will close at 8:00 p.m. All polling places are accessible to elderly and disabled voters.

Notice of Meeting of the Local Board of Canvassers

At the close of voting on Election Day, pursuant to the provisions of Wis. Stat. 19.84, the Election Inspectors at each polling place will convene as the Local Canvassing Board for the purpose of conducting the local canvass pursuant to Wis. Stat. 7.51. This meeting will be open to the public pursuant to Wis. Stat. 19.81-89.

On February 27

PBS to air a Michael Perry show

In the all-new PBS Wisconsin special, Michael Perry: On the Road, viewers are invited to hit the road with the bestselling Wisconsin author, humorist and musician as he travels to historic Wisconsin theaters, telling some of his most popular stories.

Michael Perry: On the Road premieres 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 27 on PBS Wisconsin. Shortly after broadcast, the program will also be available for on-demand streaming at pbswisconsin.org and in the free PBS Video App on all streaming platforms, digital devices and Smart TVs. The special will also have encore broadcasts 3:30 p.m. Sunday, March 5, 7 p.m. Tuesday March 7 and 7 p.m. Sunday March 12.

Part live performance and part road trip, the new special captures the comedic and heartfelt nature of Perry's performances at the Mabel Tainter Center for the Arts in Menomonie and the Stoughton Opera House. Traveling between venues, viewers join Perry in his trusty 2002 Toyota Sienna tour van as he shares insights on life growing up in northern Wisconsin.

Perry is a New York Times bestselling author, humorist, playwright, and radio show host from New Auburn, Wisconsin. His bestselling memoirs include Population: 485, Truck: A Love Story, Coop, Visiting Tom, and Montaigne in Barn Boots: An Amateur Ambles Through Philosophy. Among his other dozen titles are The Scavengers (for young readers), his novel The Jesus Cow and his most recent release, the novella Forty Acres Deep.

Michael Perry On the Road was funded in part by Stanley J. Cottrill Fund, A.C.V. and Mary Elston Family, Eleanor and Thomas Wildrick Family, Wooden Nickel Fund, Focus Funds for Wisconsin Programs and Friends of PBS Wisconsin.

PBS Wisconsin is a service of the Educational Communications Board and University of Wisconsin-Madison.

PBS Wisconsin is a place to grow through learning on WHA-TV, Madison; WPNE-TV, Green Bay; WHRM-TV, Wausau; WLEF-TV, Park Falls; WHLA-TV, La Crosse; and WHWC-TV, Menomonie-Eau Claire.