

Schmeeckle Reserve, UW-Stevens Point
Storm Water Management Concerns
June 2, 2004

Schmeeckle Reserve is a 275-acre natural area that makes up the north campus of UWSP. Its mission is to protect natural communities of Central Wisconsin, serve as a research and educational facility for campus and the community, and provide recreational opportunities. A majority of the Reserve's habitats are wetland, especially sedge meadow, and therefore it serves as a large storm water retention area for UWSP and Stevens Point. Moses Creek runs through the east side of the Reserve before entering storm sewers beneath campus and the city. Lake Joanis is a 27-foot deep, 24-acre lake in the southeast corner of the Reserve.

Some specific storm water concerns:

- 1. Doctor's Property:** Moses Creek flows through undeveloped property adjacent to southeast corner of Schmeeckle Reserve. Development could cause access runoff. Would like to acquire this property to protect watershed and develop overflow retention ponds. If Moses Creek floods too high, excess water pours into Lake Joanis degrading healthy lake habitat. A land assessment has been completed for this area.

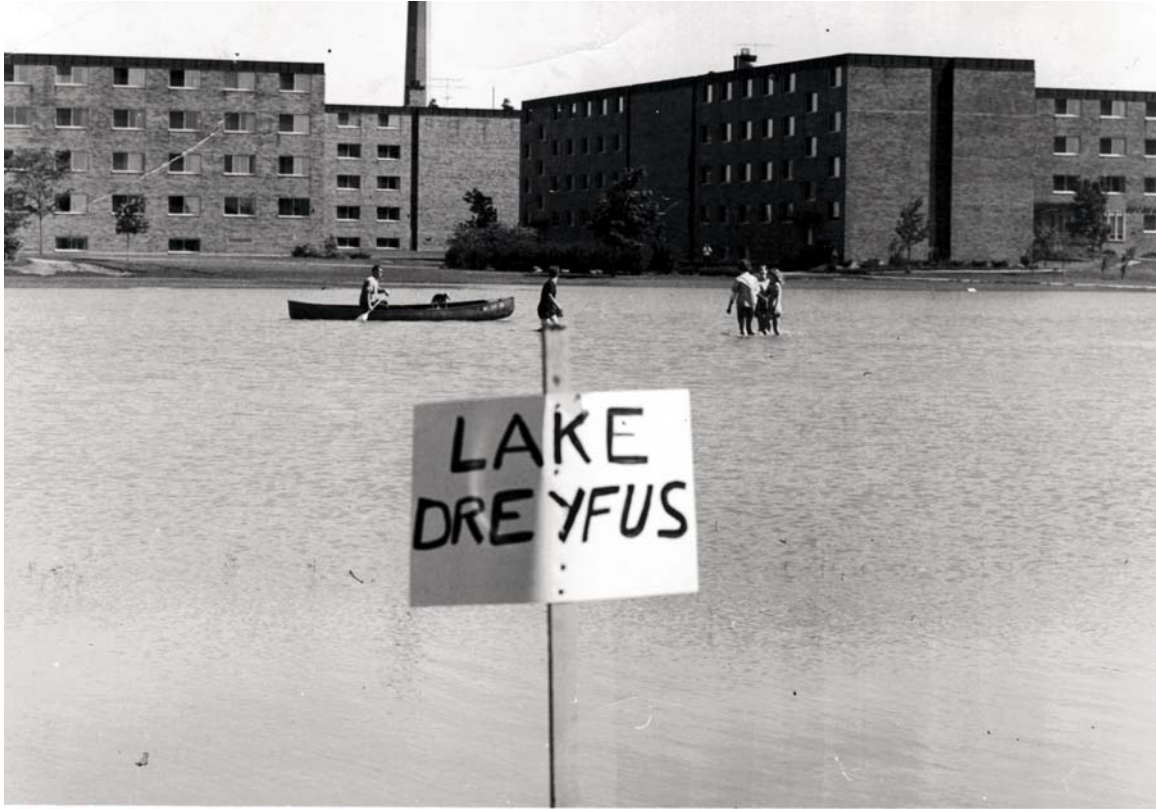
- 2. Sedge Meadows:** Origins of Moses Creek located 2-3 miles north of Schmeeckle Reserve. Stores much storm water and releases it slowly to Moses Creek, preventing storm sewer system from overloading. Nutrients, contaminants, and toxins are filtered and absorbed before entering the creek. Highly diverse habitat due to edge and unique wetland species. Development would lead to major storm sewer overloading and no filtering of pollutants. Would like to acquire this property to preserve the diverse Sedge Meadow habitat, the quality of Moses Creek, and prevent storm sewer overloads.

- 3. Drainage from Businesses:** A large 42" storm sewer on the southwest border of the Reserve drains half of the Holiday Inn complex and all of the Kmart shopping center complex. Large amounts of contaminated surface water flow into the wetlands of the reserve, especially after heavy rains. Currently, the wetlands retain and purify the water. However, overloading the wetlands and degrading wildlife/plant habitat could be a concern in the future.

- 4. City Storm Water:** From North Point Drive, storm water from Stevens Point also flows into wetlands near the visitor center. The habitat has changed from sedge meadow (shallow water) to cattails (deeper water). Currently, the wetlands retain and purify the water, but overloading may be a concern in the future. The water also carries salt from the roads, which impacts plant life.

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Flooded UWSP campus by the dorms in the early 1970s. Moses Creek runs under Pray-Simms Hall and the athletic complex in storm sewers. Lake Joanis and a retention basin near the Village Apartments now help prevent the storm sewer system from overloading.

