

TU CARES

Tom Lager
Feb 4, 2017

TU CARES:

TrouUnlimited Central Area Restoration Effort for Sustainability

Goal:

- To protect, restore and reduce the decline in habitat quality for fish, both game and non-game species
- In those restoration projects completed over the last 40-50 years
- Within Wisconsin's Central Sand Hills Ecoregion and its connected watersheds.
- Not to replace individual chapter or agency projects

TU CARES Geographic Area

Comprised of the watersheds common to all four TU Chapters within Central Regional

- Central Wis, Fox Valley, Hornberg & Shaw-paca
- Eco-regions of the area:
 - Central Sand Hills
 - Southern watersheds of the Forest Transition Ecoregion
- Counties of the area:
 - Shawano, Waupaca, Portage, Wood, Adams, Waushara, Marquette and Green Lake.



How did TU CARES get started

- Jan 2016 Central Region Annual Meeting
 - TU Chapters and DNR Fisheries & Wild Rose Habitat Crew
- Brainstorming: How can we do more in Central Region
- CWTU brought forward Bob Hunts idea
 - Central Sand Hills Ecoregion Initiative
- Core Team was formed to work on the idea

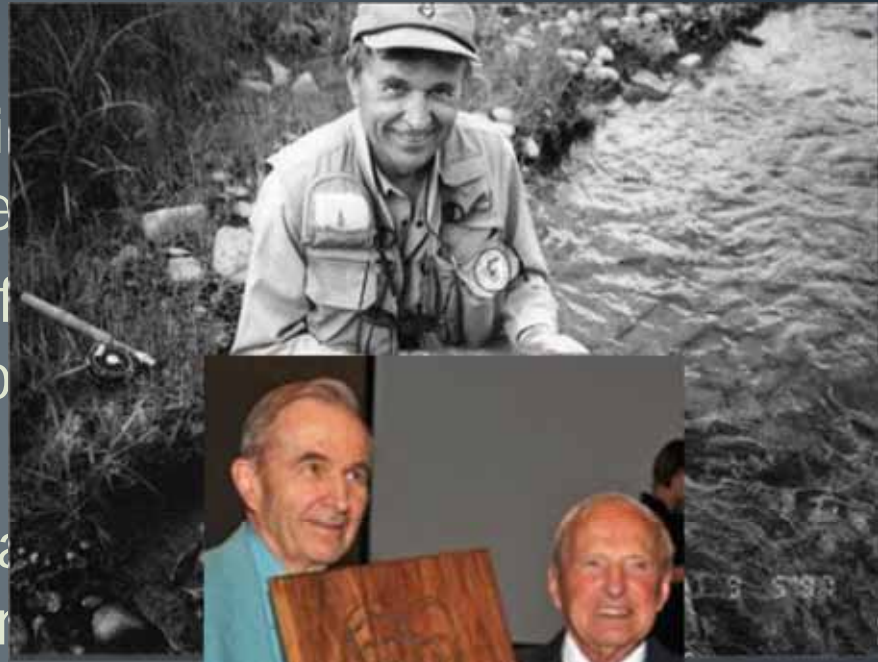
Core Team Work

- TU Members:
 - Dennis Drazkowski
 - Al Johnson
 - Tom Lager
 - Nate Ratliff
 - Mike SanDretto
 - John Tucker
 - Laura Tucker
- Matt (Hornberg) & Nate (Shawpaca) supporting members
- Attended TUDARE Workshop on Stream Restoration Project Planning
 - Met with Duke Welter of TUDARE
- Monthly Core Team Meeting thru out 2016



Bob Hunt's Role in Formation of the Goal

- Initiated the idea of funding
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- V
- Regrettably, Bob did not live to see the beginnings of TU CARES.



TU CARES

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TU CARES – Initial Project

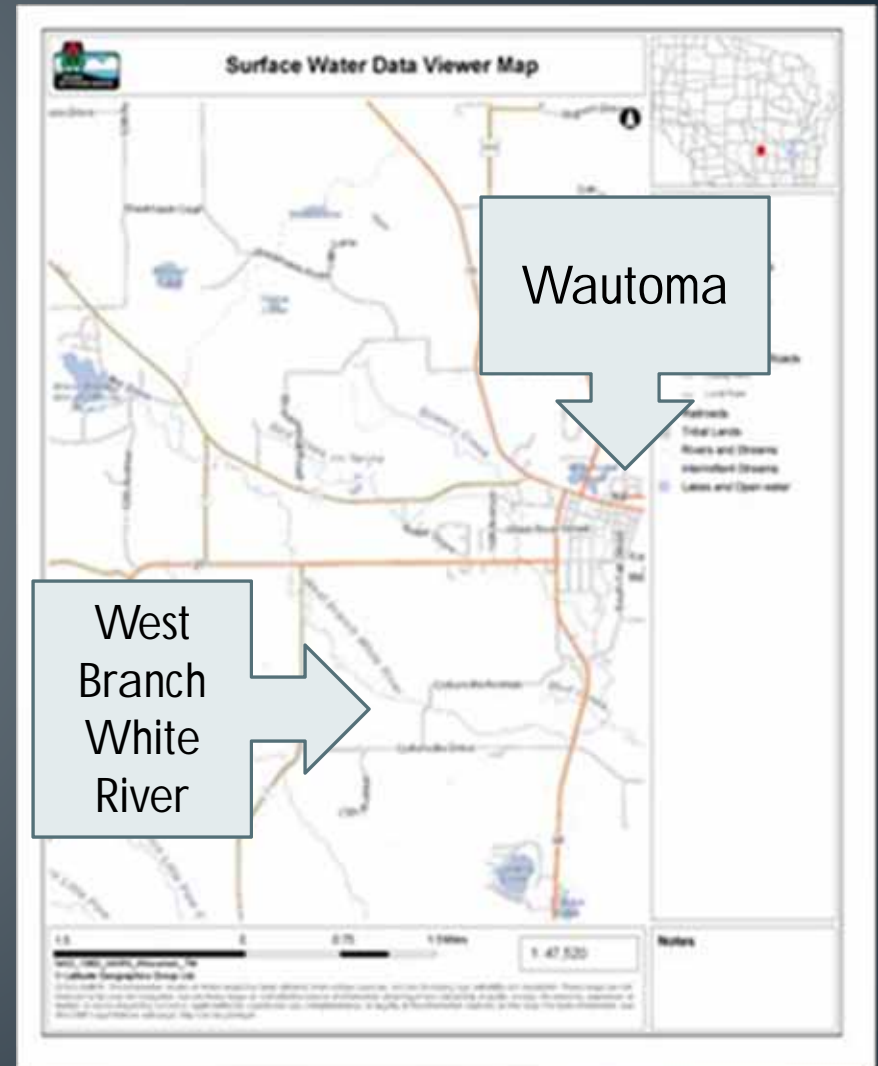
- Meet with DNR Habitat Team in Wild Rose
- Discussed the idea of an “Ideal Stream” a “demonstration stream to show what is possible”
 - Drive interest
 - Gain support
 - Expand our minds to imagine beyond our normal work projects
- A project plan is needed before applying for large grants



TU CARES Inaugural Project

West Branch of the White River (WBWR):

- Objective:
 - Assess and implement improvements to the WBWR representing the possibilities achievable across the Central Region streams



TU CARES Inaugural Project

WBWR Selection Rationale:

- Biodiversity and hydrogeography commonality
- Unique features
 - Brook, rainbow and brown trout
 - Habitat improvements since 1930's WPA
 - Highway 21 bridge
- Ground water depend stream
- Has agriculture, rural housing and wooded and wetland wildlife management land practices
- Provides public multiple use benefits
- Many DNR maintained public accesses



Draft WBWR Work Plan – TU & DNR

Near-term 2017

- Assess culvert correction
- DNR Biennium plan for WBWR



Mid-Term 2018 - 2020

- Create Master Watershed Plan
- Develop data baseline describing the watershed
- Assess Easements status

Long-Term 2021 and beyond

- Removal of rock obstruction and old building obstructions to flow



TU CARES Next Steps

- Progress the WBWR Project plan
- Funding
- Communications – advertising
- Outreach: Welcome and expanded membership

TU CARES - the Starting Point

- TU CARES started with us
 - 2016 Annual Meeting of Central Region TU Chapters & DNR
- We shared DNR and TU Central Regional projects
- We realized “We need to do more”
 - Limited DNR resources
 - Limited TU funding (\$15K)
 - Work opportunities left undone
- We asked “How can we do more”



“How can we do more?”

- An individual TU Chapter and a DNR crew only do so much
- What we are doing is great – BUT
- But – what if we collaborated and shared ideas and resources
- We could do more
 - Larger projects beyond scope of one chapter / crew / office
 - Greater funding levels and sources
 - Bigger impact on the Central Region



Brainstorming session to answer 2 questions

- What needs to be done in the Central Region
- How should we do it

- Results:
 - Made long list of what need to be done
 - Proposed Bob Hunt's "Central Sands Hills Ecoregion Initiative"

- Prioritized Next Steps:
 - Form a small core team to work on Bob Hunt's initiative

Core Team Meeting Results

- Objective:
 - Bob Hunt's idea with an increased scope
- Geography
 - TU Counties within Central Sand Hills Ecoregion and southern watersheds of the Forest Transition Ecoregion
- Name
 - TrouUnlimited Central Area Restoration Effort for Sustainability (TU CARES)
- Proposed an inaugural project
 - West Branch White River project
- Obtained guidance from DNR Habitat Team
- Kept Matt and Nate informed



Today TU CARES is
announced to TU and DNR

Draft WBWR Work Plan – TU & DNR

Near-term 2017

- Assess culvert correction on Lake Dr
 - Tributary to West Branch of the White River flows through a perched culvert
- Master plan for West Branch White River
 - DNR Biennium plan
- DNR Habitat Management Crew work plan
 - Brushing for fishability and riparian vegetative growth up and downstream of County Highway T and downstream of Cottonville Ave in the “Younglove” reach
 - Bank covers up and downstream of County Highway Y
 - Habitat work up and downstream of County Highway 21 bridge

Draft WBWR Work Plan – TU & DNR

Mid-Term 2018 - 2020

- Master Watershed Plan
 - How to create a watershed plan
 - Consultants: e.g. Inter-Fluve (<http://www.interfluve.com>)
 - Funding sources
 - Grants
- Develop data baseline describing the watershed
 - E.g. Geomorphology, hydrology, aquatic and riparian animal and plant populations, land usage and economy
 - Obtain existing study reports and data-sets
 - DNR, Universities, TU Chapters and Counties
- Easements
 - Status: perpetual, renewable and options for purchase

Draft WBWR Work Plan – TU & DNR

Long-Term 2021 and beyond

- Removal of rock obstruction at upstream edge of 13th Ave old building foundation over WBWR
- Removal of old building foundation structure at 13th Ave over WBWR

TU CARES Next Steps

- Progress the WBWR Project plan
- Funding
 - Grants: NRCS, GLRI, Soil & Water Res, County Conservation Aids.....
 - Grant writing Training
- Communications – advertising
 - Support from local brewery in Amherst
 - Booklet development
 - Presentations
- Outreach: Welcome and expanded membership
 - TU, DNR, Counties, conservation organizations, local groups and functions

You all are invited to be active in TU CARES