



Photos provided by Jim Zons

Red Cedar River Water Quality Partnership Yearly Update

The Tainter Lake Rehabilitation District meets with other lake district/associations, county land and water divisions, farmer-led groups, WDNR, UW-Extension, and other related conservation groups every other month. The work of these groups is to improve the water quality in the Red Cedar Basin. The guiding plan that connects these groups is *A River Runs Through Us: A Water Quality Strategy for the Land and Water of the Red Cedar Basin (2015)*. This is a ten-year plan to reduce the amount of phosphorus in the waters of the Red Cedar Basin.

Each year a report is compiled of the activities and accomplishments of the various groups actively involved in the reduction of non-source phosphorus and water quality improvements. This report is shared with partnership members and the public in general.

There are three documents that are noteworthy. The first is the [press release](#) that summarizes the annual report. The second is the [2024 Update](#) document. This is a summary report of the various group's activities and accomplishments. (The update

is from the previous year's work, hence the 2024 title.) The third and final document would be [A River Runs Through Us](#). This is the parent document that sets phosphorus reduction goals and outlines conditions and challenges in water quality improvement.

These documents are interesting reading and provide a fact-based look at the water quality of the Red Cedar Basin. It should also be noted [The River Runs Through Us](#) document is currently being rewritten for the next ten years with new goals and/or outcomes.

Tainter Lake Water Testing Procedures

This is an overview of lake testing processes we have put into place for Tainter Lake. We collect samples throughout the year and compare test results with previous years. In a future newsletter, after the ice comes, we will present results from this past summer's testing compared to previous years.

Purpose of the Testing:

1. Obtain data to help support lake management decisions by fish biologists and lake water resources managers (DNR).
2. Determine lake health and support general lake management decisions.
3. Craft aquatic invasives species management decisions.
4. Establish "baseline" data to look at water quality changes and trends through time.

Performed by Chuck Tack who has been a Citizen Lake Monitoring Network (CLMN) Volunteer since 2020.

1. Initial Sampling:

- **Timing:** 2 weeks after ice-out.
- **Activity:** Collect water samples from Upper Tainter for phosphorus testing.
- **Destination:** Send sample to DNR lab in Madison.

2. Regular Monitoring:

- **Frequency:** Every 8 days.
- **Activities:**
 - Measure water clarity with a Secchi disc.
 - Check water temperatures every 3 feet.
 - Record data (clarity, color, level, time, date, rating, observations) on a pre-printed sheet and submit to (WHO)
- **Locations:**
 - North Basin (Sandbar Area) - Station 173214
 - Middle Basin (Middle Bay Upper Tainter) - Station 173215
 - South Basin (Lower Tainter) - Station 173216
 - East Lobe of the Hay River - Station 10033688
- **Data Entry:** All collected data is inputted electronically into the DNR's database.

3. Seasonal Chemical Testing:

- **Timing:** End of June, July, and August.
- **Activities:**

- Collect water samples using a 6-foot pole.
- Separate samples for phosphorus and chlorophyll-a testing.
- Add sulfuric acid to phosphorus samples.
- Filter water for chlorophyll-a samples.
- **Locations:**
 - Middle Bay Upper Tainter - Station 173215
 - Lower Tainter - Station 173216
- **Destination:** Send samples into the DNR labs in Madison and UWSP (Point) using Priority Mail.

Thank You Chuck (and Lee Ann) for your diligent work for the lake community. Please contact Chuck via email Chuck (tack@tainterlakedistrict.org) with any questions.



2025 Fundraiser

The 2025 TLRD Fundraiser took place on Saturday, September 20th, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Over 150 people attended the successful event. Elk Point Resort (Nikki and Sarah) collaborated with the organizers, 5 months earlier and helped finalize the menu. Pulled pork plates were sold for \$11, or \$10 with a raffle ticket; Elk Point provided the meat while other items were supplied or donated. Approximately 150 meals were served, though preparations were made for 200 guests.

The event featured a raffle with seven major prizes, along with a 50/50 raffle that was well received. A large tent, tables, and chairs were set up, but most attendees gathered on the patio except during the meal. Fortunately, weather conditions were

favorable. Rock n Roll To Go handled DJ services, provided additional tables and chairs, background music, announcements, and a PA system for raffle draws.

Overall the event raised \$7,750

Thank you to all our sponsors and volunteers. Next year will be even better.

Boating and Safety Committee Meeting

The Boating and Safety Standing Committee met on Wednesday October 1st and 29th at Jake's Supper Club at 5 pm.

Discussion Items included:

Dunn County Sheriff's Department Field Services Sergeant Chad Pollack provided an enforcement update for boating violations on Tainter Lake. Sergeant Pollack provides a report to the committee each month and fields questions from Tainter Lake residents who attend our monthly meetings when he is in attendance.

Slow No-Wake Ordinance: Discussion continues over the modification of the current control zone (slow no-wake) areas. There is general committee consensus on plans for control zone expansion upstream of the Hwy G bridge.

The committee passed a motion to recommend that the full TLRD Board of Commissioners hold a public hearing to seek public input on expanding the existing slow no-wake control zones before making a final committee recommendation to the board about the potential options discussed by the committee.

There is a difference of opinion on the committee as to how much, or even if, the control zone should be expanded south of the Hwy G bridge in the southern part of the channel, so that decision will be left until after a public hearing. **The public hearing has been scheduled for Wednesday, December 3, 2025 at the Tainter Town Hall at 7pm.**

The Wisconsin DNR states that any changes to the control zones will require a change to the existing TLRD slow no-wake ordinance which will need to be submitted to the WDNR for approval.

Boating and Safety Committee meetings are normally scheduled for the 1st Wednesday of each month. However, due to committee member schedules, the meeting dates can change. Please look for posted agenda on the TLRD website or Facebook page. The Committee's next meeting is November 19th at 7pm at Jake's Supper Club.

Future Meeting Dates

TLRD Regular Meeting

November 20, 2025 5:00pm

Slow No-Wake Hearing
Boating and Safety Comm.

Water Quality Comm

Dunn County Government Center Rm 54

December 18, 2025 5:00pm

Dunn County Government Center Rm 54

December 3, 2025 7:00pm Tainter Town Hall

November 19, 2025 5:00pm Jake's Supper
Club

November 17, 2025 5:00pm Tainter Town H



Check us out on Facebook for current activities and meeting updates. You can also watch our meetings on YouTube to stay current with the latest topic discussions and actions. Also encourage your friends and neighbors to subscribe to this newsletter for additional information. All of the links can be found on the [TLRD website](#) homepage.