

# Little Plover River Watershed Enhancement Project Update

Activities Update April 2017 – June 2018



When the Little Plover River Watershed Enhancement Project Team first convened in February, 2017 to discuss projects that would meet the Team's goals, the Village of Plover saw great potential, but our progress has far exceeded Village expectations. With just a little more than 1 year of work under our belts, our Project Team has secured more than \$2.67 million in new investments for the design and implementation of on-the-ground river and watershed restoration projects.

Restoring flows to the Little Plover River remains our highest priority. We are also committed to supporting restoration actions that will further improve the fishery, local wildlife habitat, water quality, and quality of life in the Little Plover River Watershed.

We are fortunate to be working with many great collaborators, from our community and beyond, to restore the health of local waters. We are also grateful to have support from the Wisconsin Legislature and other federal, state, local, and private funders, and for the enthusiastic participation of many partners and volunteers.

The work reported on here also builds upon the efforts and investments of many, many others. We are working on lands purchased with support from the state, Portage County, and the Village itself; using data and models produced by regional water experts; trying to address concerns shared and studied by industries, organizations, and individuals alike.

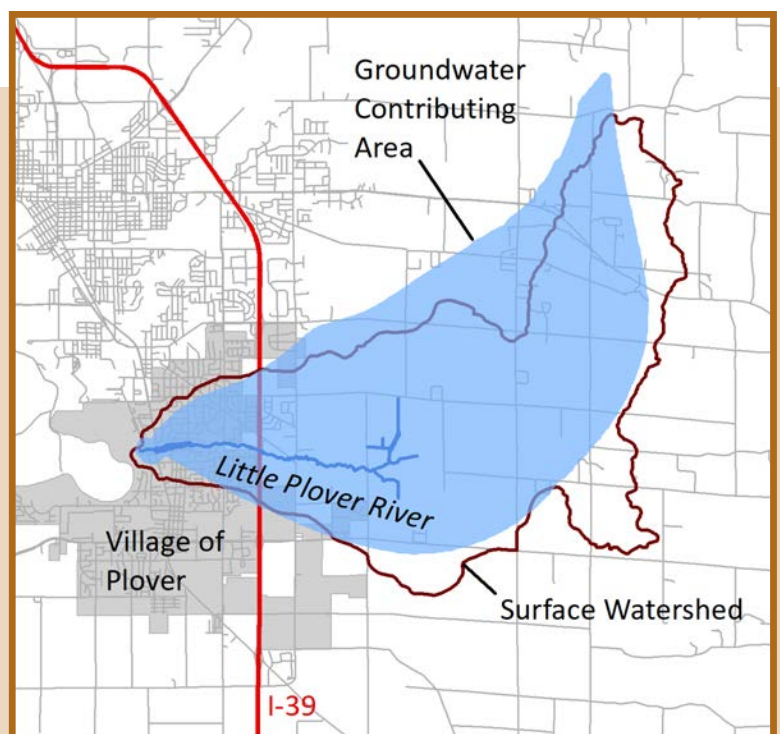
As we prepare to break ground on the first of these projects, I am pleased to share the details of our progress and information on how you can get involved.

Sincerely,

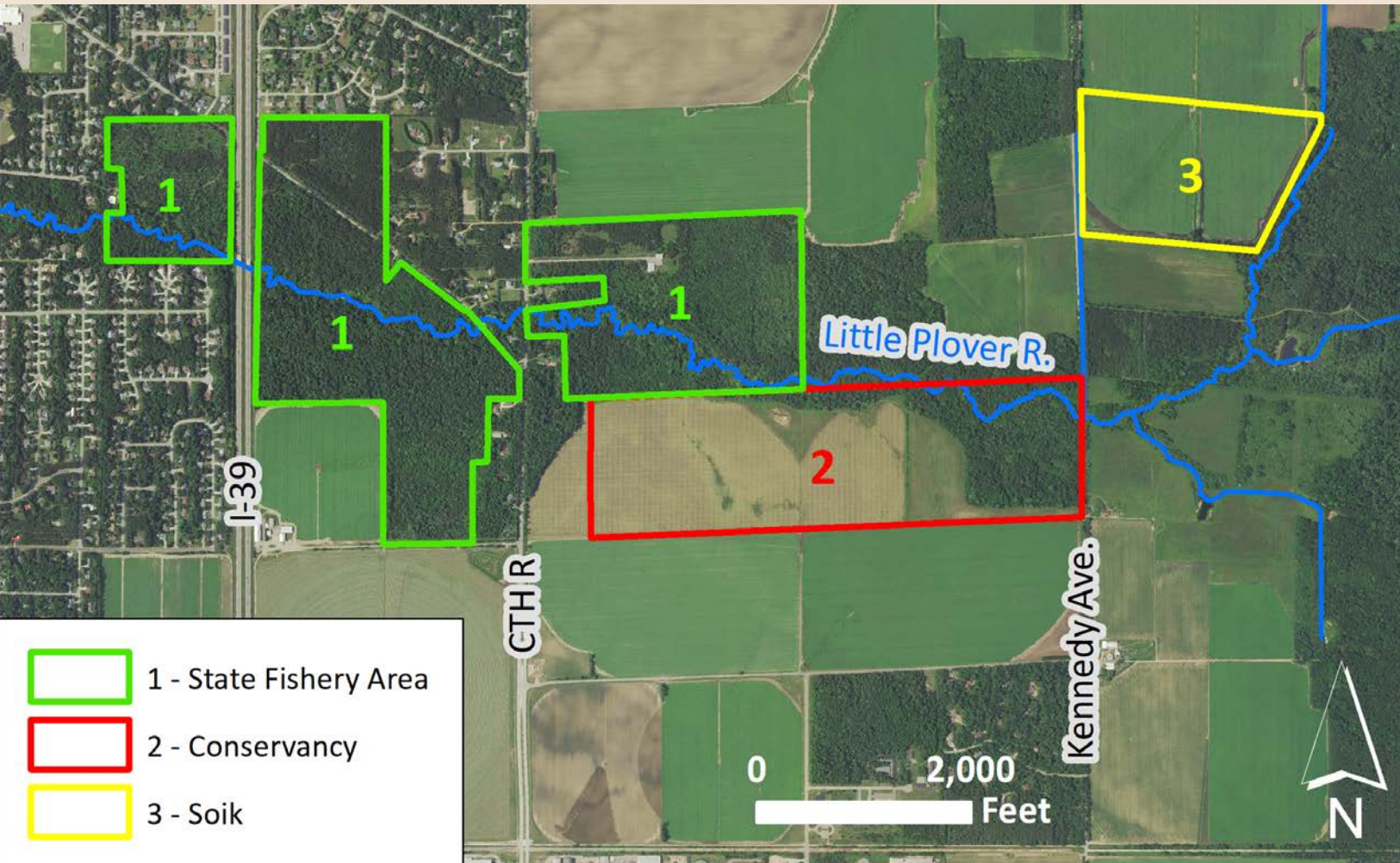
Dan Mahoney  
Administrator, Village of Plover

## PROJECT GOALS

- Increase the flow and improve the aquatic health of the Little Plover River.
- Implement voluntary water management projects that improve the health of the Little Plover River Watershed.
- Improve and expand fish and wildlife habitat and public recreation opportunities and access.



# BREAKING GROUND



## Little Plover River Fishery Area (#1)

Channel improvements, riparian forest management, pine and oak forest management.

## Little Plover River Conservancy (#2)

Wetland and prairie restoration, channel improvement, and riparian forest management.

## Soik Property Restoration (#3)

Purchase and retirement of ~60 acres of irrigated farmland in a headwaters area of the LPR, decommissioning of a high capacity well, wetland and prairie restoration.

## NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Project (not shown)

Numerous voluntary on-farm soil and water conservation practices within the project area (see map pg 1). Locations and practices to be determined.

## Watershed Restoration Action Plan (not shown)

Applied modeling to help evaluate and design viable solutions to increase flow in the Little Plover River.

# INVESTMENTS

## GRANTS AND OTHER AWARDS:

**Natural Resource Conservation Service**  
Regional Conservation Partnership Program  
\$295,000

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service/  
Wisconsin DNR**  
Pittman Robertson Grant via  
Wisconsin Habitat Partnership Fund  
\$228,988

**State of Wisconsin**  
Legislative Appropriation  
\$100,000

**Wisconsin Potato & Vegetable Growers Association**  
\$64,400

**Wisconsin DNR**  
Wisconsin Wetlands Conservation Trust  
\$1,450,790

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**  
Partners for Wildlife Program  
\$14,500

**Total: \$2,155,678**

## IN-KIND MATCH

Several of the grants we have secured require the applicant to commit matching funds and will require more work than the awards actually support. The following entities and organizations have generously agreed to donate valuable time and talent to ensure we have the resources needed to meet these requirements and complete these ambitious projects.

Montgomery Associates:  
Resource Solutions, LLC  
Portage County  
University of Wisconsin  
Stevens Point  
Village of Plover

Wisconsin Potato and  
Vegetable Growers  
Association  
Wisconsin Wetlands  
Association  
Wisconsin Wildlife Federation

**Total: \$524,000**

**Total Grants and Awards + Match**

**= > \$2.6 million investment**

\* The dollars reported here reflect commitments secured through accepted grants and signed agreements for work that will be completed over the course of the next few years.



# MOVING FORWARD IN COLLABORATION

## Watershed Restoration Action Plan

Fixing a river takes a watershed approach. With support from the Wisconsin Legislature and others, we've launched an applied science project to develop a collaborative groundwater management plan. We're also out in the community working with producers, the university, and local conservation groups to design and implement new projects.

## Farmer engagement

With seed money from NRCS and the WPVGA, we're working with producers to implement additional soil and water conservation practices across the project area and to help showcase innovative practices already in place. Watch soon for more news about field walks and demonstrations projects.



David Palme

## UW Stevens Point

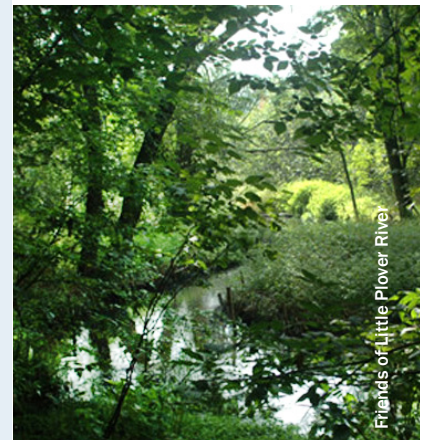
A healthy river and productive fishery needs more than just flow. We've convened a team of fishery, floodplain, and forestry experts from UW Stevens Point to help design and implement restoration and management practices to improve channel structure and reconnect the river to its historic floodplain.

## Work days

We will host the first of many River Management Work Days this fall in collaboration with local conservation organizations. Dr. Kyle Herrman (UWSP - Kyle.Herrman@uwsp.edu) and Jerry Knuth (Wisconsin Wildlife Federation - knuth0628@sbcglobal.net) will coordinate logistics with student and community groups, respectively. Many hands make light work – please join us!



NRCS



Friends of Little Plover River

## PROJECT TEAM

