

Tainter/Menomin Lake Improvement Association, Inc.

“Strategic Plan for 2009, 2010, and Beyond”

----Revised 2/10/09.

Vision:

That the waters of both Tainter and Menomin Lakes become clean and safe.

By 2018, Clean and safe will be defined as:

- **Reaching the World Health Organization’s (WHO) standard “Vigilance Level”.**
- **Listed in the Excellent Category of the Wisconsin Trophic State Index (WTSI).**

Mission:

- **To provide educational information on water quality and environmental issues affecting Lakes Tainter and Menomin and the watershed feeding these lakes.**
- **Unify, mobilize and facilitate actions that improve the health and recreational capability of these waters.**
- **Maintain a tactical plan to support the goals and objectives of the Tainter/Menomin Lake Improvement Association, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as the Association) Strategic Plan.**

Objectives:

- 1. We will reduce phosphorous (P) levels of input to our watershed by 45% from the DNR tested values, and reduce cyanobacteria (CB) levels to 2000 cells/ml. in our lakes.**

Strategy: Reduce runoff from all sources.

Tactics:

A. Create buffer zones – some money is earmarked for a UW-Stout class to explore home shore buffers.

B. Gardens by Lambs Creek and other areas. This effort is targeted for the 2nd quarter of 2009.

C. Reward agricultural industry for best management practices. This is part of the TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) Plan project sponsored by the DNR. Publication of this project to the public is expected in early 2009.

D. Develop and conduct an educational package related to the TMDL Project (Best Management Practices). The Association will work with the DNR, Cooperative Extension, County Conservation Districts, and other agencies/groups to develop informational and educational materials, and design/conduct outreach programs related to the TMDL for the watershed.

E. Measure P levels (prior to and after) of each of the 10 Townships in the Red Cedar River basin to determine what level each contributes. The team responsible is planning to initiate this testing prior to the spring runoff and complete during 2009.

F. Educate communities on what can be done to develop tertiary (going beyond the minimums in water treatment plants) water treatment systems. This effort was started in November 2008.

G. Research & test other means to reduce phosphorus levels in our lakes.

- Use a health study to show how increased algae blooms are affecting the health of citizens in our community. This may be accomplished by educating doctors in the watershed.
- Eliminate phosphorous in lawn fertilizers. Explore local and State regulations as needed. Bills have been introduced in the Wisconsin Legislature to complete this tactic
- Publish and endorse non phosphorus dishwashing detergents. Nationally there is an effort to eliminate phosphorus in all dishwashing detergents by July 2010.

H. Gain total community support for the effort to have clean and safe waters.

- Teachers and supportive agencies/associations met 12/22/08 to start planning/coordination of efforts for students of the Menomonie Middle School, local high schools and the UW-Stout to begin spring sampling of streams in the area.
- The Association will continue our efforts on stream monitoring.
- Efforts to reach out to other associations and lake districts with similar objectives will also be required.

I. Explore/Analyze short term fixes to the algae levels through inhibiting growth methods.

- Complete the barley straw project submitted for 2009.
- Develop a project plan in cooperation with the “Solar Bee” company that would detail testing, expected results, and budget numbers. Plan to be submitted to the Board of Director’s by 3/31/09.
- Start research/analysis of chemically treating our waters. The Sweetwater Parallel Project has been proposed. Information will be presented at the March meeting.

2. Increase membership in the Association.

Strategy: Gain greater participation of existing members to solicit new members and gain support from the greater community defined as the Red Cedar Basin.

Tactics:

A. The Board of Directors to fill the chairperson opening on the Membership Committee. (By 2/11/09)

B. Increase the number of paid members by 50% in 2009.

C. Increase active membership. (Active--designated as those participating in Association events or those contributing to committee actions).

3. Increase Funding for the Association.

Strategy: Provide sufficient funding to carry out the current plan and meet the long term objectives established for 2018.

Tactics:

A. Develop a specific committee to address short and long term funding of the projects sponsored by the Association. The Association is currently funded by various grants and membership dues. The Board of Directors shall initiate appropriate actions.

B. Develop a grant writing sub-committee for approved projects forwarded by the Board of Directors.

C. Coordinate the funding and implementation of an economic impact study regarding the current condition of our lakes. Secure this funding by 4th quarter of 2009.

D. Contact the Rivers Alliance of Wisconsin to arrange a training program for the Association. If completed the Association would be eligible for grants of \$500-\$5,000.

E. Research other grants available for the Association use in achieving the Vision and Mission. Committee members expect to report on this by 6/30/09.

F. Develop a public relations process. A chairperson has been designated and the Publicity Committee will complete a process description by 4/30/09.

G. Publish the Strategic Plan. It was approved at the 2/10/09 meeting. At a minimum, annual reviews and suggestions will be submitted to the Association prior to the August meeting, starting in August 2010. The Strategic planning committee chairperson will be responsible for initiating and completing above reviews.

H. Fill open board positions. Action complete as of 1/13/09.

4. Promote existing Clean/Safe water programs.

Strategy: Support past approved measures of the Association.

Tactics:

A. Continue to support the “Slow No Wake Speed” zones on our lakes.

B. Continue to support the DNR’s “Clean Boats, Clean Waters” project. Board of Directors will solicit and train members to staff launch sites on our lakes.

5. Develop projects that deal with erosion of our banks in the Watershed.

Strategy: Engage other agencies, associations, municipalities, lake districts, and individual property owners in the need to prevent erosion of soils flowing into the Red Cedar Watershed.

Tactics:

A. Continue efforts to stop the erosion behind the Colfax School buildings in Colfax.

B. Other erosion projects as developed.