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Dane County Annual Report 2016
July 31, 2015 to July 31, 2016

Southwest Badger Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Council, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization working in the Southwest Wisconsin region since 1992. The organization's mission is to implement natural resource conservation and rural economic development in the area through education and best practices relating to agriculture, grassland, forests, and surface waters. Learn more at swbadger.org or call 608-348-7110.

Our staff work on watershed projects and through the Southwest Wisconsin Grassland and Steam Conservation Area (SWGCA) to address natural resource issues in Dane County. The following is a summary of our work in Dane County over the past year:

Don Barrett, Aquatic Invasive Species Specialist:

- Talked with staff at Dane County Sheriff's Department about AIS laws and ordinances (Dave Mahoney) in 2015 and 2016
- Attended the fishing Expo in February of 2015 and 2016
- Distributed AIS information and have set up a workshop for AIS work with K & A Nursery. Identify prohibited plants and discuss alternatives (2016)
- Completed two years of stream monitoring for AIS. A total of about 30 sites. Mostly trout streams in the western part of the county. 2015-2016
- Completed an AIS lake monitoring survey for Stewart Lake at the beach and canoe launch.
- Worked with Pete Jopke on the locations of Japanese Knotweed in Dane County and Phragmites identification. Also work with BMP's. 2015 and 2016
- Discussed with Pete Jopke CBCW activities for lakes. Volunteerism, Recruitment, etc. We have also shared information relative to AIS and AIS projects.
- Worked with Pete Jopke on the New Zealand Mudsail discovery (Black Earth Creek) with assistance to WDNR for outreach, education and other activities.

Robert Bauer, Grazing Broker/Grazing Educator:

- Completed two grazing plans: 42 acres hay converted to managed grazing; 4 acres crops converted to pasture for managed grazing; 10 acres expiring CREP trees and warm-season grasses converted to managed grazing; 4 acres idle grassland converted to managed grazing.

- Provided technical assistance on managed grazing to three landowners with 34 acres idle grassland.
- Enrolled six beginning farmers in the Mentorship Program for Future Livestock Farmers.
- Participated in the Dane County Land Access Subcommittee on March 21, April 21, and June 7, 2016. Contributed to the committee's report on policy strategies to increase opportunities for beginning farmers in sustainable agriculture by writing "Staging process for sustainable food production, land access, and support for disadvantaged farmers."
- Facilitated one meeting of the military veteran advisory team in Mt. Horeb on April 26, 2016. Four military veterans participated.
- Hosted the Grazing Broker Advisory Team meeting in Mt. Horeb on July 18, 2016 (5 agency staff and partners attended).

In addition, during July 1, 2016 to September 30, 2016, Robert Bauer, Grazing Broker provided the following support to landowners in Dane County:

- Leased one property, totaling 34 acres that were formerly in the Conservation Reserve Program for the Prescribed Grazing Demonstration project funded by National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The property will be developed for prescribed grazing and rented at reduced rates to a beginning farmer.
- Attended a meeting of the Outreach Team of the Southwest Wisconsin Grassland and Stream Conservation Area (SWGSCA) partnership on September 19, 2016.
- Provided onsite technical assistance to three landowners with 34 acres of idle grassland; two landowners with 22 acres of unmanaged pasture.
- Facilitated discussion about "Staging process for sustainable food production, land access, and support for disadvantaged farmers" at the Collaborative Farming Workshop at the Farley Center for Peace and Justice in Verona on August 22, 2016.
- Facilitated one meeting of the Grazing Broker Team in Mt. Horeb on July 18, 2016. 7 agency staff participated.