

Miljala Tributary Restoration Project Update: July



Miljala Tributary, late July 2022



NEW DEVELOPMENT!

The Miljala Tributary Restoration project has always been dependent on private landowner participation. RLIA heard from one of the landowners recently that someone outside of the project team inappropriately contacted them which resulted in the landowner no longer wanting to participate with the project. Therefore, the scope of the project will need to be revised.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN NOW?

Originally, RLIA received two WDNR Surface Water grants. One grant was to determine the best practice to control bank erosion and reduce nutrient loads going into the Miljala Channel and subsequently Rock Lake. The second grant was to take this recommended practice and quantify that solution with detailed construction documents, a construction cost estimate, drafted permits applications and maintenance requirements to bring the project to "shovel ready" status for the next grant cycle in November. Unfortunately, as we will not be able to move forward with construction implementation, RLIA will be returning the funds for the second grant to the WDNR. We will continue working with the remaining landowners to determine the best practice for resolving the issues facing the tributary. It's important to remember that this is an important step which must be completed to ultimately move the project forward. Understandably, it is unfortunate that the project will not be able to move further without the commitment of the critical landowners.

Next Steps? RLIA and our engineering partner, REA, are waiting for the soil analysis from the Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene. REA will use the soil data to determine potential bank stabilization design grades along the tributary. Known engineering data based on soil texture and moisture will be used to guide the tributary profile design. In addition, REA will consider whether certain portions of the tributary (e.g. corners) may require more resistant soil materials. Samples taken from farther away from the bank may present nearby opportunities for more stable fill material or rip rap could be considered. REA will develop a number of cross sectional renderings to help facilitate the visualization of the practice.

Landowner questions the practice should address include:

- What on-going maintenance will be required? How will the area be dry enough for that maintenance? Who would provide the maintenance?

- What native plantings will be used within the practice? How will the plantings be supported for the first two years of planting? (water, non-native competition)
- Where will construction equipment access the project?
- How will the properties be restored after construction access?

Note: Questions on how the design will handle future storm events and the proposed rain event model (10yr, 25yr, 50yr, 100yr) would need to be addressed at a later date. Likewise, construction details such as tree removal, land shaping, possible removal of soil and costs will not be part of the first grant scope.

Questions? Contact Us!

RLIA: Susan Trier / susan.trier@gmail.com

LWCD: Marisa Ulman / marisau@jeffersoncountywi.gov / 920.674.7111

