

BEPCO opening comments

Maintenance of the aerator – fell into disrepair. What is the minimum water level for effective operation? More than one system needed? A commitment to continuing operation after it is repaired?

The capacity of the reservoir appears to have been set in 1942 and is still used to this day. After 67 years, with the annual draw downs and refills, with all of the scrubbing action to the shoreline and islands, common sense would tell us that a resurvey is needed at this time, to reset this number. Can we find funding?

The 1984 Upper Big Eau Pleine Priority Watershed Plan – What did we learn? What worked and what didn't? Too short a duration? Adequate funding?

WVIC 1995 Operating Plan – appears to have worked, can a new one be put into place? What was learned and what could be improved on?

Other cost sharing programs through the State and County, did they work? What were the results and conclusions, what can we learn?

The WDNR TMDL Project starting this fall. Are adequate funds committed to follow through and are resources in line to quickly follow up as information is gathered?

For our Federal representatives, can we depend on funding with a long term commitment? Do we ask the EPA to become involved?

Is new technology available to address the problems, ie. Community manure digesters as being put in Dane County? Green power generation. Incentives available?

Budgets are tight for all parties, can resources be reallocated if needed, realistically?

What lines of communication would be recommended? Marathon County, with BEPCO's assistance, takes the lead position?

What goals do we set? 1, 5, 10 year benchmarks? How do we define success?

Can we all agree to make the rehab of the Big Eau Pleine a priority? This process will have to continue after many of us leave our current positions, and the commitment will have to be passed down to the next, and probably then the next, group.