



Waunakee Rotary Club

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Kevin Connors is looking out for Dane County's natural resources in his role as director of water and land resources.

Kevin told the Waunakee Rotary Club at its July 31 meeting about his work with three of four of the county's most important resources – water, land and people. And now he is beginning to work with a fourth – air.

The county's water and land resources receive funding from two important sources. The conservation fund, approved by referendum about 12 years ago, allows the county to acquire land for trails and parks. One local project includes a trail to connect Gov. Nelson State Park to Schumacher Farm, Kevin said. The county works with landowners willing to sell their property in acquiring land for trails. Kevin expects the Gov. Nelson to Schumacher Farm trail to be planned and implemented in the next couple of years, he said.

A new funding program is the Dane County Land and Water Legacy, Kevin said. Through that cost sharing program, the county recently acquired the Wolf property north of Waunakee, where a restored wetland area is planned to improve water quality.

Kevin said the county is also cost sharing projects in local communities to install catch basins that collect debris from storm sewers before it enters area lakes.

That program has also made fishing areas available along 30 miles of trout streams, where a landowner provides public access.

One county initiative where air

quality comes into play is manure management. Kevin said in the last 15 years, Dane County has lost over 1,000 dairy farms. He added that this area – referred to as the North Mendota Watershed – has some of the best livestock operations.

Kevin has worked with two groups of farmers from Middleton and Waunakee to develop a community manure facility.

For years, farmers have allowed manure to enter lagoons. Some have been hauling it 15-26 miles away.

But Kevin said if it can be handled in a cooperative approach, the quality of air and streams can be improved.

Manure digesters produce energy, and one cluster of farms is enough to power 420 homes per year.

That can also cut down on greenhouse gas emissions, Kevin said, the equivalent to the carbon emissions from 5 million vehicle miles a year.

Kevin's department also manages the Yahara Lakes lock and dam system. Kevin said the lakes are still about a foot and a half over the average. Just a year ago, Dane County's lakes were in drought condition, he said.

Other items:

• Brent Ziegler announced that the bridge at the Rotary Walk has been completed. Yahara Materials was expected to finish the walkway around it, he said. He applauded the efforts of the Rotarians who worked on the project.

OFFICERS

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PHIL WILLEMS, CLUB SECRETARY
BOB PULVERMACHER, RECORDING SECRETARY • AL DASSOW, TREASURER

DIRECTORS

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Calendar of Events:

- Sept. 4, fall golf outing.
- Oct. 4-5, Wauktoberfest

Guests: John Jordon.

Visiting Rotarians: Two visitors from Virginia.

Birthdays: Aug. 11, Kim Wilde; Aug. 12, Mary Weber; Aug. 12, Scott Cochems; Aug. 13, Kathy Cefalu; Aug. 13, Brent Ziegler.

Anniversaries: Aug. 10, Bob and Nancy Arntz; Aug. 12, Art and Jan Drake; Aug. 13, Danny and Yvonne Paul.

Prayers: Aug. 7, Leonard Allen; Aug. 14, Pat Durden; Aug. 21, Susan Vergeront.

Programs: Aug. 7, Club Assembly.

Greeters: Aug. 7, Mike Fehrenbach and Betsy Flanagan; Aug. 14, Greg Garton and Jeremiah Gollon; Aug. 21, Rich Harris and Bob Hoskins; Aug. 28, Bob Kase and Jim Jukes.

Make up meetings online

It's easy to make up a meeting on the Internet. The site is www.rotaryclubone.org. Print out the form and give it to Phil Willems, the club secretary.