

# Pomme de Terre River Association

## 2018 Review

Keep scrolling to read more about what PDTRA accomplished in 2018:

- 1** EDUCATION
- 2** PROJECTS
- 3** TARGETING
- 4** FUNDING



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## Pomme de Terre Joint Powers Board

The Pomme de Terre River Association (PDTRA) is devoted to restoring and protecting the Pomme de Terre Watershed located in West Central Minnesota. Founded in 1981, the PDTRA created a partnership between Ottertail, Grant, Douglas, Stevens, Big Stone, and Swift counties and Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD), which today has grown into a conservation machine. The association is a watershed project, meaning that we are strictly a voluntary and grant funded/non-conventionally funded organization. We promote conservation by providing design work, construction, and partial funding for Best Management Practices (BMPs) and many conservation programs.



## Watershed Partners

West Otter Tail SWCD - Otter Tail County - Otter Tail County Environmental Services - Douglas SWCD - Douglas County - Grant SWCD - Grant County - Grant County - Stevens SWCD - Stevens County - Swift SWCD - Swift County - Big Stone SWCD - Big Stone County - MN Pollution Control Agency - Department of Natural Resources - MN Board of Water and Soil Resources - Voluntary producers, lakeshore owners, and residential owners across the watershed.

## Pomme de Terre River Runs

53 new and experienced paddlers attended our annual River Runs on two different stretches of the Pomme de Terre River. This year PDTRA held a run a run of the lower section of the river that started in the Dolven State Wildlife Management area just North of HWY 28 and floated down into the Pomme de Terre Reservoir and Campground area. The following week PDTRA met a group of new and experienced paddlers at the Tipsinah Mounds Campground and paddled a calm section of river between the park and a bridge just North of Barrett Lake. PDTRA also partnered with the Morris Regional Fitness Center and UMM to reach local students interested in water. Through these events, PDTRA hopes to raise awareness and appreciation for our water resources.



## Watershed Education



Each year PDTRA attends the SWCD-hosted 5th grade Water Fest for Pope and Stevens County as well as the 6th grade Conservation Days to educate 400+ students about water quality, habitat,

and conservation. In 2018, 5th graders looked at “micro-ponds” and assessed their quality by looking for macro-invertebrates, aquatic larvae sensitive to various levels of pollution. 6th graders learned about the importance of how we all are involved in conservation through a team-building obstacle course that teaches about sources of pollution and what we can do to prevent it and maintain a healthy watershed for our communities and the native fish and wildlife.



## Best Management Practices

Best Management Practices are activities and structures that help reduce erosion and runoff of excessive sediments and nutrients that can have negative impacts on our water resources, such as excessive phosphorous resulting in algae blooms. PDTRA and our partners work to combat these effects by providing producers, lakeshore owners, and city residents with education on water awareness, technical assistance on how to reduce our every-day impacts, and cost-share to implement practices that reduce the amount of sediment and nutrients from entering our waterways in order to improve water quality for our communities.

### Projects Implemented in 2018:

- ◆ 2 Ag Waste Pit Closures
- ◆ 8 Water and Sediment Control Basins
- ◆ 1050 ft. Stream Restoration
- ◆ 1.9 Acre Wetland Restoration

### Reduced non-point source runoff:

- ◆ 7,324 lbs. of Phosphorous per Year
- ◆ 379 Ton of Sediment per Year



Since 2011, PDTRA has successfully applied for and received over \$2 million in Clean Water Funds from the Board of Soil and Water Resources (BWSR) for the benefit of our water resources. In December of 2018 PDTRA was approved for an additional \$500,000 to continue implementing best management practices and provide landowners with education and technical assistance.

## Drywood Dam Removal and Stream Restoration

A dam was constructed on Drywood Creek in 1972 and failed in 1997 leaving a function-less structure resulting in serious bank failure and erosion issues. It's perpetual source of sediment eroding into the stream is carried directly into the Pomme de Terre River. PDTRA and partners sought after this project since 2014 as a way to eliminate a large source of sedimentation and improve water quality, connectivity, and habitat. With the help of Clean Water Funds and a DNR grant, PDTRA funded the dam removal in 2017 and in 2018 [restored 1,050 ft of stream](#).

### Before



The Drywood Dam was originally installed in 1972 as a fish barrier but failed in 1997 and since has resulted in serious flanking and erosion of the shoreline.

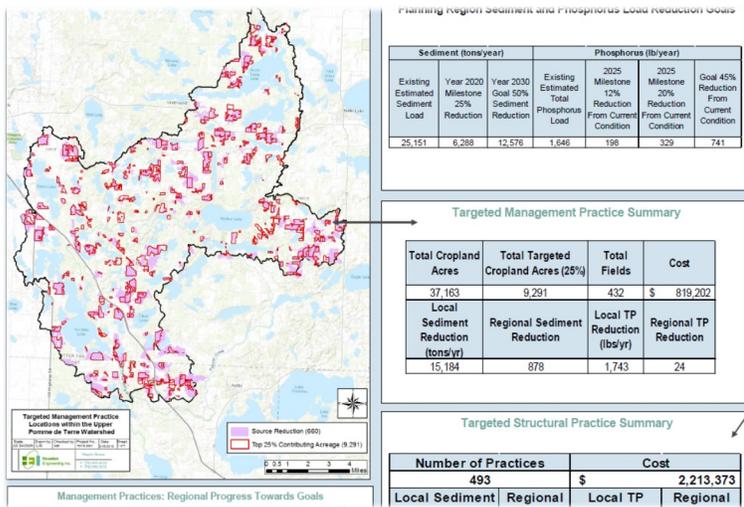
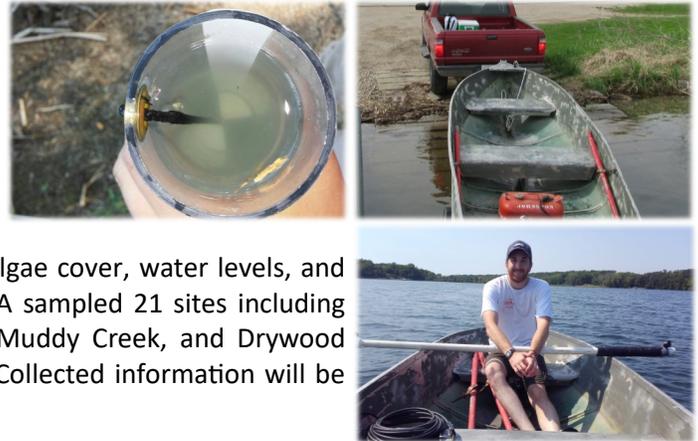
### After



This restoration will prevent **212.5 lbs. of Phosphorus** per year and **212.5 Ton of Sediment** per year from reaching the Drywood Creek!

## Monitoring

As part of a 10-year Intensive Watershed Monitoring cycle, PDTRA spent 2018 completing a **2-year monitoring effort** to help identify improvements in water quality made over the past 10 years and areas that may require our attention. PDTRA hired a Seasonal Technical, Mitch Fox, to help collect water samples that were then analyzed and at a lab. Along with analyzing parameters such as Chlorophyll, Phosphorous, Total Suspended Solids, Nitrogen and Nitrate, we also collected in-field information such as pH levels, algae cover, water levels, and measured water clarity with the use of a Secchi tube/disk. PDTRA sampled 21 sites including reaches along the Pomme de Terre main stem, Pelican Creek, Muddy Creek, and Drywood Creek. Ina, Middle, and North Drywood lake were also sampled. Collected information will be reviewed by MPCA and results will be documented in a final report



## Prioritizing and Targeting

As part of a state-wide objective to improve prioritization and targeting of conservation efforts, a **Prioritize, Target, and Measure Application (PTMApp)** was developed for watersheds to utilize. The program was developed for the Pomme de Terre and completed in 2018. With this tool, local staff can use the information to simulate which practices provide the best benefit to a field as well as where the best place to the practice based on a number of modeling factors such as erodibility, stream flow, and slopes. PDTRA is incorporating this information into a 10-year comprehensive watershed plan; One Watershed, One Plan.

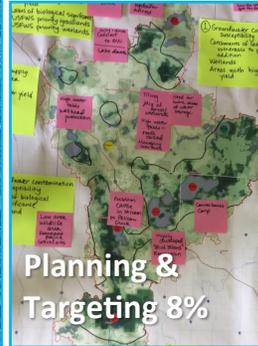
## One Watershed, One Plan

2018 was heavily focused on a planning effort that began in the Fall of 2017. **One Watershed, One Plan** is a BWSR-funded planning effort for watersheds to develop a 10-year comprehensive management plan to improve water quality. Throughout 2018 PDTRA hosted 2 Citizens Advisory Committee meetings where selected members of the public were invited to provide their input on local issues, goals, and priorities. A Planning Committee made up of SWCD, County, Agency representatives, and hired consultants, reviewed and deliberated a large range of priority areas, activities, and goals that will eventually be a part of the plan. The Pomme de Terre is currently working on compiling the list of activities and assigning dollars needed in order to reach goals. The Pomme de Terre is currently on track towards having an approved plan by the beginning of 2020 that will help guide future efforts in hopes of creating a more collaborative effort in watershed management.



## Funding

The Pomme de Terre River Association relies solely on competitive and noncompetitive grants that are applied to through various State and Federal programs that target watershed management and improving water quality. Grant programs include Clean Water Funds, Federal Section 319, Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy funding, and Surface Water Assessment grants. To date, PDTRA has applied to and received over \$4 million in grants since 2009.



## 2018 Grant Funding

Grant	Funds	Purpose	Status
● FY-2014 Clean Water Fund	\$274,816.00	Landowner Assistance & Cost-share	90% Expended
● FY-2015 Clean Water Fund	\$387,146.00	Landowner Assistance & Coordination	Expired/Completed
● FY-2016 Clean Water Fund	\$115,248.00	PTMApp Development	Expired/Completed
● FY-2017 Clean Water Fund	\$431,587.00	Landowner Assistance & Cost-share	70% Expended
● FY-2014 Federal 319	\$275,000.00	Cost-share, Outreach, Monitoring	Expired/Completed
● FY-2016 Federal 319	\$285,000.00	Cost-share, Outreach, Education	18% Expended
● One Watershed, One Plan	\$246,441.00	Comprehensive Management Planning	60% Expended
● Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy	\$52,000.00	Monitoring, Coordination	Expired/Completed
● Surface Water Assessment Grant	\$47,991.68	Monitoring	Expired/Completed

\*FY: Fiscal Year grant was adopted