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# JOEL KITCHENS

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 1<sup>ST</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Representative Joel Kitchens

May 18, 2016

(608) 266-5350

## **Rep. Kitchens Asks DNR to Monitor Ahnapee River**

**Madison** – Representative Joel Kitchens (R-Sturgeon Bay) announced plans for a new initiative to monitor total phosphorus (TP) and total suspended solids (TSS) loads in the Ahnapee River. Per Representative Kitchens’ request, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will fund and conduct a citizen-based monitoring effort to close information gaps that currently exist. The DNR plans to start monitoring before the end of this month, pending volunteer availability, and will install two flow meters, likely one near Blahnik Heritage Park and another at Willow Drive.

Rep. Kitchens made the following remarks:

“We want clean and safe resources in our area. This is especially true for the Ahnapee River and its largest tributary, Silver Creek, which flow into Lake Michigan and are reported to contribute to algae blooms and excessive sedimentation. This negatively impacts the City of Algoma and Crescent Beach, which are popular destinations for locals and tourists.

“Gathering accurate information on TP and TSS is vital for our efforts to ensure that we remain good stewards of our natural resources. These TP and TSS load estimates will serve as the foundation for a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). I plan to request funding for a TMDL in the next state budget and the information gathered through the citizen-based monitoring effort will strengthen our case.

“I look forward to working with the Friends of Crescent Beach and any other interested parties.”

To request further information or to volunteer for the monitoring effort, please contact the office of Rep. Kitchens in Madison: (608) 266-5350.

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