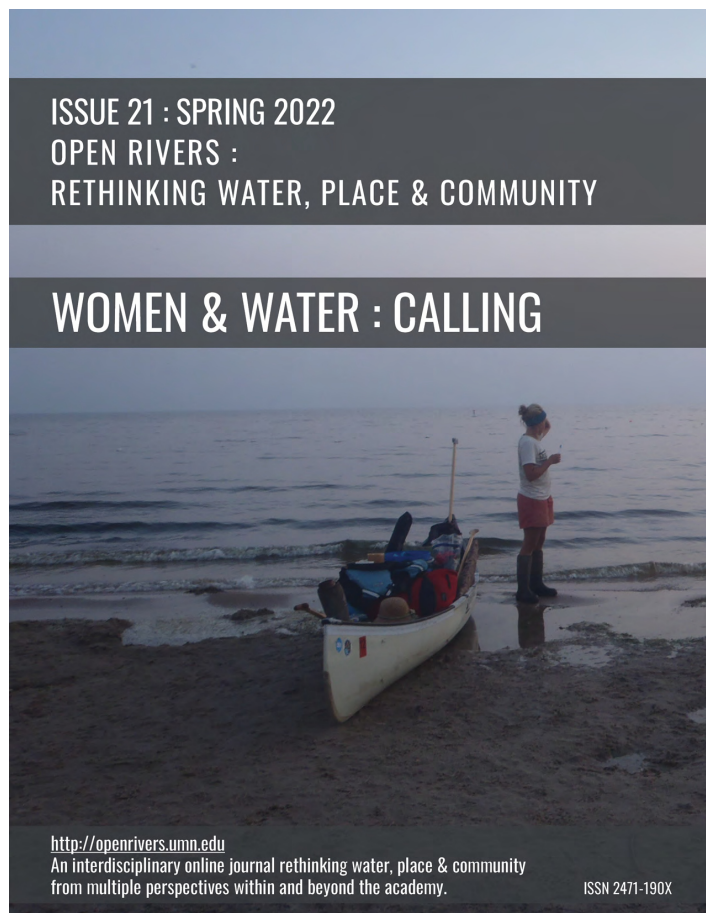


Collaboration for a Common Goal: Peoples Company Perspective Included in May 2022 Open Rivers Journal

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FEATURE

COLLABORATION FOR A COMMON GOAL

By Mollie Aronowitz, Jennifer Terry, Ruth McCabe, and Mary Beth Stevenson

We are four women who have joined our voices together to tell a rich and complicated story about protecting Iowa's soil and water resources. Our state is well known for being the top producer of corn in the nation; our landscape is peppered with animal confinements that have contributed to Iowa being the nation's top producer of eggs, chicken, and pork. However, these

agricultural achievements have come with significant environmental costs. The erosion of valuable topsoil leads to turbid rivers and lakes and threatens the long-term viability of our farms. Nutrient loss from farm fields leads to algae blooms and threatens the safety of our drinking water supplies. Iowans are increasingly clamoring for more aquatic recreational opportunities, but the water



Left: Coordinators meeting at an oxbow in the river. Right: With corn growing on the left, the wildflowers in the filter strip provide valuable habitat, as well as filtering runoff from the fields. Images courtesy of Mollie Aronowitz.

OPEN RIVERS : ISSUE 21 : SPRING 2022 / FEATURE

30

Peoples Company Land Manager, Mollie Aronowitz, was recently published in the May edition of *Open Rivers: Rethinking Water, Place & Community*. The online journal is produced by the University of Minnesota Libraries Publishing Services and the University of Minnesota Institute for Advanced Study.

The feature article also highlights the unique perspectives of three water quality leaders in Iowa: Jennifer Terry, Des Moines Water Works External Affairs Manager; Mary Beth Stevenson, City of Cedar Rapids Watersheds and Source Water Coordinator; and Ruth McCabe, Heartland Cooperative Conservation Agronomist.

Experience has taught these four women that finding common ground is critical to measurable improvement in Iowa. “The intersection of agriculture and water quality is a complex issue in Iowa, with many stakeholders at the table,” said Mollie Aronowitz. “Peoples Company realized early on that relationship building and becoming fully entrenched in the issue was critical to building a strong base of understanding. We can now focus on what we do well as a company, and the dynamic collaborations that move to real transformation of the working landscape.”

“I am fortunate to collaborate with talented professionals like Jennifer, Mary Beth and Ruth. And it is rewarding to share our stories of success.”

To read the full article, visit: https://editions.lib.umn.edu/openrivers/wp-content/uploads/sites/9/2022/05/openrivers_issue_21_book_a.pdf