THE TRUTH ABOUT
DAMS
IN RIVER FALLS, WI

Why would we remove a green energy source from our community?

While dams are a renewable energy source, they are not green. Dam impoundments "produce harmful methane that exacerbates climate change." Dam impoundments emit carbon dioxide and methane gases due to the rotting of vegetation, sediments and algae.
Source: InternationalRivers.org

Why can't we just dredge Lake George to combat the methane and carbon dioxide emissions?

Dredging Lake George would cost an estimated $7.4 million and that would be for removing sediment only. It does not include the cost for dam repair, shoreline stabilization, etc. (Source: Sean Morrison; Interfluve, Inc.) This cost would fall on city taxpayers and utility ratepayers. Current grants and other partnerships have funds allocated for dam removal only.

What CAN we do?

We can remove both the Powell Falls and Junction Falls dams. This would help reduce harmful greenhouse gases emitted from the impoundments, allow for unrestricted wildlife migration, and increase tourism dollars coming into the community.

How much is all of this going to cost?

The current estimate for dam removals, river restoration, and stormwater inflows is approximately $15 million. The US Army Crops of Engineers (USACOE) is proposing a partnership with the City of River Falls in which the USACOE would cover approximately $10 million. This partnership is awaiting support from the Utility Advisory Board and approval by the City Council. The City of River Falls has also received the $1 million Wisconsin DNR Municipal Dam Grant which will only be awarded for the dam removal. Community organizations are working hard to raise the remaining amount.

KINNI CORRIDOR COLLABORATIVE
WWW.KINNICC.ORG

How can I help?
Reach out to your City Council representative and Utility Advisory Board members to vocalize your support. Let your Council representative know you support the USACOE partnership and help return the Kinni to a free-flowing river.