



Burt Lake Watershed Management Plan Advisory Committee Meeting

Tuscarora Township Hall

3546 S Straits Highway, Indian River, MI 49749

August 29, 2018 - 10:00 am - 12:00 noon

****DRAFT****

MEETING NOTES

I. Welcome and Introductions

Attendees:

Kira Davis, Conservation Resource Alliance (CRA)

Chris Pierce, CRA

Lauren Dey, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians (LTBB)

Darrell Schwalm, Mullet Area Preservation Society (MAPS)

Nancy Salar, Emmet County

Katie Parker, Burt Twp

John Knoppe, Watershed Resident

Neal Godby, Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources, (MDNR)

Jim Burke, Burt Lake Preservation Association (BLPA)

Susan Klaas, Watershed Resident

Pete Klaas, Douglas Lake Improvement Association (DLIA)

Ed Davis, Miller Van Winkle Trout Unlimited (MWWTU)

Susan Affholter – Pellston Downtown Development Association (DDA)

Caroline Keson – tip of the Mitt Watershed Council (TOMWC)

Grenetta Thomassey - TOMWC

II. PRESENTATION: Update on Lake Kathleen Dam Removal

Chris Peirce, CRA

Chris did an informative PowerPoint presentation for us. Construction has started at the site. He reviewed a history of the dam and the river, and gave an update on the larger Free Span the Maple River Project, which includes the Lake Kathleen dam removal and numerous partners.

Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources (MDNR) and Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI) are working to relocate endangered species, such as the Hungerford's Beetle and the Michigan Monkey Flower, and removing invasive species in the area.

The Maple is a high quality cold water system and removing the dam will open up about 48 miles of habitat for local species and restore 7,000 feet of historic stream channel. Dams not only build sediment behind them, they also have a warming effect on rivers. Removing the dam prevents the warming impact, moves the sediment, allows fish passage, and creates new habitat.

Siphon tubes are draining the pond now. The sequence of events is important and includes such things as creating a road detour; slow draw down; demolition of the old structure; and

returning the river to its channel. Various partners, such as MDNR, the Biostation, and the Tribe will be doing regular monitoring. CRA is currently fundraising for Phase 2 of the project, which includes sediment management, post-project restoration, and monitoring.

Chris finished by reviewing numerous photos of the project, and answering lots of questions. Very helpful and informative!

III. Theme for the year: *Creating Connections*

Grenetta reviewed the first draft of the reader-friendly, Abridged version of the Watershed Plan that Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council is working on. We took comments at the meeting, the Watershed Council will do another internal review, and we will send the next draft out to the committee over the winter, to get additional comments and feedback.

IV. Partner Updates

TOMWC – Jen Buchanan sent updates regarding several Watershed Council road/stream crossing projects that are happening on the Minnehaha; on Berry Creek, a tributary of Pickerel Lake; and at Snider Rd, at the mouth of an unnamed tributary to the Crooked River. She also noted she's done numerous shoreline visits to Burt and Douglas Lakes on properties with considerable ice damage. The Watershed Council is developing a statewide publication to address bioengineering on high-energy lakes. If you have photos of this kind of damage and are willing to share, please send them to jen@watershedcouncil.org. Finally, the Watershed Council is continuing development of the MI Shoreland Stewards Ambassador program. These Ambassadors are trained and typically acting on behalf of Lake Associations to promote healthy shorelines through outreach and education.

TOMWC – Caroline Keson, new staff member at the Watershed Council, passed out posters advertising Volunteer Stream Monitoring training sessions this fall. She also noted that the Zequenox project is wrapping up, and we expect a report in March 2019. Finally, if you need beetles to fight Purple Loosestrife, call the Watershed Council to place an order for next spring.

CRA – Kira Davis elaborated on the Phase 2 fundraising they are doing for the completion of the Lake Kathleen project. If you want to visit the dam removal project, she asked that you call Chris or Kim in their office to set up a visit. They are also working on a Regional Conservation Partnership Program through NRCS with numerous local partners. Finally, they have a NFWF grant for three additional road/stream crossings.

LTBB – working with CRA on Reed Rd road/stream crossing. Also held their sturgeon release events.

Burt Township – got UMBS permission for part of their new bike trail. They also got approval to do an archeological survey in the township.

MDNR – Neal Godby noted they are extremely busy in the field doing lots of stream surveys the past few months.

BLPA – Jim Burke noted he visited the dam removal project and it was amazing!

DLIA – held their Annual Meeting last week. They will do an aquatic plant survey with the Watershed Council next year. They also found a bright red water lily that will be tested to find out where it came from. Looks like a cultivar, but it was found among native lilies.

MVWTU – last week they trained nine volunteers to do pebble counts on the main branch of the Maple River. In the third week of September, they will start monthly counts. They also completed a habitat survey on Pleasantview Rd.

Pellston DDA – Susan Affholter said they had another successful clean up on the West Branch of the Maple River on MDNR property. This is the second year they did it and they are making a big difference, and discouraging continued dumping at this site.

V. Adjourn