



Burt Lake Watershed Management Plan Advisory Committee Meeting
Tuscarora Township Hall
3546 S Straits Highway, Indian River, MI 49749
July 25, 2018 - 10:00 am - 12:00 noon

MEETING NOTES

I. Welcome and Introductions

Attendees:

Kris Dey, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians
Ed Davis, Miller Van Winkle Trout Unlimited
Gina Burke, Burt Lake Preservation Association (BLPA)
Darrell Schwalm, Mullett Area Preservation Society (MAPS)
Pete Klaas, Douglas Lake Improvement Association
Katie Parker, Burt Township and BLPA
Maureen Stine, US Dept. of Agriculture
Marty Jones, MAPS
Donna Perla, MAPS
Grenetta Thomassey, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council (TOMWC)
Daniel Gonzalez, TOMWC
Ralph Dollhopf, EPA
Carolyn Moberley, US Coast Guard
Neal Godby, MDNR

II. PRESENTATION:

Response to Inland Oil and Hazardous Materials Spills in Northern Michigan

Ralph Dollhopf, EPA's Pre-designed On-Scene Coordinator for Northern Michigan, described the inland response process and recent spill trends. This included several brief case studies of the responses to oil/hazmat incidents that have already occurred in Northern Michigan in 2018. He spoke about Transportation Spill risks and showed several situations where recent incidents on roadways became risks to nearby waters. Carolyn Moberley from the US Coast Guard Sault Sector was also on hand to answer questions about how they work in partnership with EPA on spill responses in this region.

III. PRESENTATION:

Burt Lake 2015 Status of Fishery Report

Neal Godby, DNR Fisheries Biologist, spoke about the Status of Fishery Populations in Burt Lake. They use a standardized gear based on lake size, designed to capture information on the fish community. Each gear type samples a different habitat or size of fish. He spoke about surveying different fish populations including yellow perch and Lake Sturgeon. Conclusions from his report were that Burt Lake provides outstanding fishing opportunities, the fish populations are remarkably stable and that Burt Lake provides high quality spawning habitat.

IV. Theme for the year: *Creating Connections*

Grenetta shared the bad news that we are not eligible to apply for a 319 grant this year because we still don't have EPA approval on the new plan. We do have DEQ approval, but the EPA is a mess, quite frankly, and very far behind on plan approvals. We've had ours in the pipeline for about 6 months.

Grenetta also reviewed the first draft of the proposed Abridged Watershed Management Plan of the Full Burt Lake Watershed Protection Plan. The purpose of this abridged version is to give you a useful resource for understanding the entire Watershed Protection Plan, which is quite large because it also captures the Sturgeon, Crooked, and Maple Rivers. The abridged version will help you figure out where to go in the Plan to read more about a specific topic or issue.

V. Partner Updates

Douglas Lake – Nothing new, had expectations of having an aquatic plant survey this summer but that will be put off to next year.

NRCS and USDA are in the field. Enjoying site visits. Listening to all the needs of the private land owners.

MAPS – Annual Meeting is tomorrow night, new venue, new date, new format, to make MAPS more accessible. This will be an Ice Cream Social at the Cheboygan Public Library.

BLPA - Data is not available yet, but they have completed year 2 of the surveying for Eurasian Water milfoil.

LTBB – Stocks on Walleye in Douglas, tagging Sturgeon this week. Lauren's update: The LTBB Natural Resource Department has a new Facebook page, and there is ongoing wild rice research within watershed. She also sent copies of a Fish Consumption Advisory Wheel that was very cool, giving guidance on fish caught in area lakes.

Burt Township – Contracted someone to clean up their road ends, they have seen erosion and messiness. Also, they have surveys to collect input from property owners regarding point of sale septic inspections and the greenbelt ordinance.

MDNR – Busy time of year, transitioning from Lakes to Streams for population estimates. Also working with CRA on Lake Kathleen Dam removal.

Trout Unlimited (MVW) – talked about doing transects below Lake Kathleen, looking at the effects of Dam Removal. They have the transects established, the pebble counts will be executed by volunteers. Habitat Surveying on the West Branch, they found interns to complete. They just recently set up a second Facebook page that is not open to a group, it gave them the ability to have a donate button. Not a lot on it yet.

VI. Adjourn

Next Meeting:

August 29