



Burt Lake Watershed Management Plan Advisory Committee Meeting

Tuscarora Township Hall

3546 S Straits Highway

Indian River, MI 49749

July 12, 2017 10am-12noon

1. Seven Springs Preserve Update- Caitlin Donnelly (Little Traverse Conservancy)

- Added 3 acres/300 ft of frontage on SE Burt Lake- 98 Donors/Partnered with BLPA
- This eliminate a building and will allow for continued use and implementation of trails.

2. Maple River Recent Work- Kira Davis and Chris Pierce (Conservation Resource Alliance)

- Free Span the Maple Initiative (2001-present)- A holistic approach
 - 7 Completed Passages, 5 Timber Bridges
 - Working on freeing up 48 mi of habitat
- Current active project- Lake Kathleen Dam Removal (Slated to begin in 2018 with designs currently being completed)
- Questions to Chris-
 - What month would you start construction? A- April with a 4-month goal as some of the grants have a Sept deadline
 - Can the general public view the process? A-Yes, depending on being willing to take safety measures, such as wearing a hardhat, etc.
 - Is the coffer dam the 1st step? A- Yes, this must happen before the removal starts so no passage would be allowed.

3. Sea Lamprey/Release of Male Sterilization- Dr. Nicholas Johnson (USGS)

- Current Control Method- Lampricide application every 4 years (Sturgeon, Pigeon and Maple 2016)
 - Costly, but 95% effective
 - Study done on how the lamprey gained entrance- possibilities include Power Plant, Lock System and Spill wall/Fish Ladder. Could there be a landlocked population in Burt and Mullett Lakes?
 - To test this, they are using a new approach/control method- release sterilized males through a grant with Great Lakes Fishery Commission. This is happening 2017-2019, before the next lampricide application in 2020.
 - Hope to decimate the landlocked population
 - Cheaper than chemical treatment and looks effective, so far (0 embryos found alive- 2017).
- Questions to Nicholas
 - Does the Lamprey kill the fish or just wound? A- Hard to tell, not sure how many fish are killed or die from infection, etc.
 - What is being done in the St. Mary's River? - They use a granular lampricide that drops to the bottom and slowly releases.

- Do you collaborate with MSU Extension? – Yes, at Hammond Bay. They are helping with the sterilization of males
- Do you work with alternative barriers, such as seasonal electrical barriers? - Because migration begins early in March and goes until August it is a long time to implement a seasonal barrier.

4. Watershed Plan Approval Process- Grenetta Thomassey (Tip of the Mitt)

- Watershed Plan was submitted and we got comments back from DEQ on June 1st. We are incorporating those comments and will re-submit soon, for approval.

5. Updates from Committee

- Conservation Resource Alliance - Working with Emmet Co Road Commission and LTBB to complete crossings at Reed Rd. and Gill Rd.
- Miller Van Winkle Chapter of Trout Unlimited – continuing program with kids on fly-fishing
- Burt Township - Septic Tank Inspection at point of sale now being considered by Burt Township. Is there state regulation? Answer from Grenetta- There is conversation in Lansing to introduce legislation for a statewide sanitary code. The Governor has stated this is a priority; MI is the only state without a state-wide sanitary code.
- MI Trout Unlimited - Signage has been put up in the region, warning anglers of invasive New Zealand Mud Snails
- LTBB - Non-point source assessment should be available for public comment this fall. The fish hatchery will be stocking Sturgeon in the Sturgeon River in September. They are continuing to monitor and look for sites for wild rice. Volunteers can help with fin clipping Cisco in August; Lauren will forward info to the group.
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife - Burt Lake Management Plan will help them to determine priorities; supportive of having this new plan in the watershed.
- LTC- working with BLPA on programs for kids. Free programs listed on their website
- USDA - New program and Grant (RCPP Program) in Cheboygan and Emmet Counties – includes programs for Bird Conservation with land owners
- Douglas Lake Improvement Assoc - Purple Loosestrife Management program is going well but will reach out to the Biostation for help with other lake issues.
- BLPA – the Watershed Council located additional patches of Eurasian Watermilfoil last year. 1 patch is being treated and a drone for mapping will be done to monitor the patches. Also, there is a potential gift of property to BLPA on the Sturgeon River (working with LTC)
- Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council - Jen McKay is doing 7 workshops on Line 5 Alternatives Analysis because the draft is open for public comment. Matt is working on Zequanox trial treatment for Zebra and Quagga Mussels on Round Lake

5. Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 9/13/17 from 10am-12noon.