



**Burt Lake Watershed Management Plan Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**Tuscarora Township Hall**  
**3546 S Straits Highway, Indian River, MI 49749**  
**June 17, 2016 - 1:00-3:00 pm**

**Purpose of the meeting:**

- Continue to inform area stakeholders about development of draft watershed management plan
- Re-cap results from resource inventories and water quality monitoring
- Get additional feedback regarding development of draft plan
- Form Advisory Committee of watershed stakeholders and share info about related projects
- Confirm next steps

**Little Traverse Bay Bands (LTBB) of Odawa Indians – Video on Sturgeon**

- Spencer McCormack from LTBB showed a beautiful video highlighting respect for the sturgeon, its cultural significance, and efforts to monitor and restock Sturgeon in the area.

**Maple River Update from Conservation Resource Alliance (CRA)**

- Kira Davis discussed the “Free-Span the Maple Initiative”. Two free-span timber bridges have been built, and they have also been working to replace two undersized culverts.
- CRA also working with Little Traverse Conservancy on obtaining a piece of property to remove the dam on it. The cost of this project is approximately \$1 million.
- Also looking to complete the Woodland Road project. Hopefully these will be completed by December 2018, which will result in the Maple being free-spanned up to 48 miles.

**Watershed Plan Development – tip of the Mitt Watershed Council (TOMWC)**

- Matt Claucherty from TOMWC gave a presentation to remind partners about the information we collect to assess watershed health, and build the foundation of the new plan. Here are details regarding the topics he reviewed:

*Stormwater assessments*

1. Completed for seven urban areas in the Burt watershed.
2. Matt highlighted Alanson. He noted there was little opportunity for infiltration of stormwater as there are lots of paved surfaces.
3. He also noted that TOMWC is seeing a rise in Chloride from road surfaces in Spring Lake.
4. It was noted that LTBB also monitors and would be able to compare their historical data with TOMWC.

### *Road Stream Crossing Inventory*

1. Matt noted TOMWC found problems with fish passage at 50 different crossings.
2. He also shared that direct drainage tributaries into Burt Lake have some of the worst crossings.

### *Erosion and Stream Bank Alteration Survey*

1. Looked at the Maple, Crooked, and the Sturgeon rivers.
2. Matt explained that the mouth of the Sturgeon River is an example problem area, with several issues such as ice shove, flooding, and lack of habitat. Many seawalls are in place to combat ice and erosion, but as time moves on, we see the difficulties that also emerge when the shoreline is hardened. We can work with property owners on a case by case basis, and help mitigate some of the impacts.

### *Shoreline Survey*

1. Matt discussed the process of completing a shoreline survey and the types of things noted, such as the presence of greenbelts and the erosion of the bank, among other things.
2. The problem of erosion from ice in the winter was discussed. TOMWC recommends any lakeshore property owner contact them if they are dealing with this issue. There are lake-friendly bio-engineering techniques to help secure the shoreline and combat erosion from ice in the winter.
3. BLPA noted in regards to healthy shorelines, they would like to see a septic ordinance put in place to help prevent septic failures, which can negatively impact water quality.

### *Forestry Inventory*

1. Matt stated TOMWC didn't find too many issues with harvesting in general, however there were concerns about the access roads used, in terms of upkeep and sedimentation.

### *Agricultural Field Inventory*

1. Matt's takeaway point was that buffers are critical, for shielding local waters from pesticides and fertilizers. We are working to build our partnerships with local farmers and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

### **Watershed Plan Writing – Progress Report**

- Jen from TOMWC discussed the progress of the plan. She noted there was not a ton of feedback from the survey she had previously handed out. however, From the feedback she did receive she noted some of the concerns were:
  1. Erosion
  2. Septic issues
  3. Water levels of Burt Lake
  4. Pipelines

5. Mercury
6. Fertilizers and Chemicals

#### *Progress of Plan*

1. We're about mid-way through the writing of the new plan.
2. Goals need to be established. Jen handed out worksheets for people to get a start on the goals they would like to set and objectives for those goals. THESE CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT: <http://www.watershedcouncil.org/burt-lake-watershed-management-plan.html> Scroll to the middle of the page.
3. Jen would like this feedback by July 22<sup>nd</sup>.
4. We also need to start thinking about implementation steps. These cover things like outreach and education efforts, physical changes, managerial changes, and local policy initiatives.
5. She asked attendees to share the survey and goals with the groups they represent, to get as much feedback as possible.
6. The plan will likely be submitted in September to the DEQ and EPA, for approval hopefully by December.

#### ***Dates of future meetings:***

August 26, 1-3 pm

October 28, 1-3 pm

#### **Adjourned**