



West Michigan Watershed Partners (WMWP)

July 17, 2025

Meeting Notes

Attendance: John Stivers, Tom Tissue, Garry McKeen, Chelsey Lawton, Dani McGarry, Laura Ackerman, Carl Ruetz, Jeff Henry, JoAnn Barrett, Ray Schinler, Meredith Freeby, Grayson Kosak, Chris Bobryk, and Fallon Chabala

1. Current Funding Opportunities
 - [Monarch Butterfly and Pollinators Conservation Fund - NFWF](#)
 - DNR Wildlife Grant
2. WMSRDC/NFWF Resilience Planning for Drown River Mouth Systems
 - Outcome is a prioritized list of nature-based projects in Lake, Mason, Muskegon, Newaygo, and Oceana Counties complied with input from the communities and this group. A few projects will go to follow the NFWF pipeline. The remaining list can be used by this group to seek other funding opportunities.
 - Community Meetings:
 - i. Wednesday, July 23rd at the Oceana County Community Services Building
 - ii. Tuesday, July 29th at Ludington City Hall
 - iii. Wednesday, July 30th at the Newaygo County Board Room
 - iv. Tuesday, August 5th at the WMSRDC office
 - v. Wednesday, August 6th at the Lake County Board Room
 - Thank you for all who attended. If you have a project you were not able to share, please use the survey:
<https://app.surveymethods.com/EndUser.aspx?A98DE1FEADE2F8FFA8>
3. Watershed Updates
 - White: Muskegon CD has a feasibility study underway for the celery flats at the mouth of the White River into White Lake, planning to submit funding request for implementation soon. White Cloud Dam has been drawn down at rate of a foot a day. This rate released a lot of sediment downstream that is likely being caught at the Hesperia Dam. A public meeting was held on July 21st. GVSU completed post restoration fish sampling at Swinton Creek and Cushman Creek. Reports will be completed around the end of August. Fisheries division electro-fished 1,800 feet starting downstream of Hesperia, and collected 27 species of fish including bass, pike, brown trout, and rainbow trout.
 - Little Flower Creek: Muskegon CD is waiting to hear back on a NOAA proposal for culvert replacements.
 - Stony: The restoration and the ADA accessible fishing platform complete. August 28th is the grand opening. GVSU completed post restoration fish sampling here as well. Project

was successful in not allowing increased sediment downstream to Stony Lake. Oceana CD is working on pathways on their 40 acre parcel.

- Pentwater: The lake association is continuing temperature monitoring of the lake and river. Friends of the Pentwater Watershed are looking at ways to stabilize Big Sandy Bend.
- Mona Lake/Black: Muskegon CD is working on the Mona Lake Watershed Management Plan and aiming to submit for review in the next two months.
- Muskegon: The Lower Muskegon River Watershed Management Plan has been approved by EGLE and submitted to the EPA. No major updates on the Maple River project. Penoyer Creek consumers has postponed construction until at least 2026 at road dam two, road dam one completed the environmental assessment and will start designs in August, and contract is pending with EGLE for the lowest dam and daylighting of the stream. Looking at using thermal imagery and large woody debris to retain cold water/habitat complexity. Data mining for musclev distribution to help with restoration efforts. Trash bash all of August. Contractor in place to remove the collapsed culvert on Bear Creek at Roberts Road. The Muskegon Lake Watershed Partnership is looking at delisting as an AOC in October, working on funding a watershed management plan
- Duck: The foot bridges at the Fruitland Township park site are completed, and the group is working on an invasive species management plan, including HWA treatments, and creek bank restoration.
- Pere Marquette: Chloride is being released from the OxyChem site. Lake-Mason CD is working with the PM Township on the Conservation Park for habitat restoration, erosion control, forestry, and invasive species removal. CD is also working on HWA in the area. The furthest inland is now 10 miles, which is further inland than previously found. CRA had a thank you celebration at the railroad streambank stabilization site. Looking at stream bank sites for wood debris installation at a landowner site in Custer Township and at the Clay Banks site. Little South Branch instream wood habitat projects include seven erosion sites. Timber bridge to replace culverts at North Cole Creek. Balwin Dam is looking at alternatives for the sea lamprey structure. CRA is also planting along the mainstem, conducting 44 acres of non-commercial aspen regeneration, and planning open land plantings with volunteers and TU.
- Manistee: CRA completed 13.5 acres on plantings on the mainstem, and ground truthing sites hit by EAB.
- Lincoln: Lake-Mason CD is at the early stages of forming a watershed council to eventually start watershed management planning and resolve E.coli issues.

4. Other:

- Consumers Energy is looking to build an 800 solar farm in Wier Township, still a lot of questions on how this will look.

5. Next Meeting Dates: November 20th