



**West Michigan Watershed Partners
(WMWP)**

October 20, 2022

Meeting Notes

Attendance: Thomas Tissue, Ray Schinler, Garry McKeen, Rich Pugsley, Larry Fife, Tyler Hoyt, Erin Kuhn, Gale Nobes, Kathy Evans, John Stivers, Nichol DeMol, Greer Harewood, Suzie Knoll

1. Sustainable Watersheds Funding Initiative (SWFI)
 - a. Moving forward
2. National Estuarine Research Reserves (NERR)
 - a. Letter from the Governor has been sent to NOAA
3. NOAA/WMSRDC Regional Partnership Projects (Current)
 - a. Little Cedar Creek: 2 road stream crossing culvert replacements and in-stream habitat restoration
 - i. Working on NEPA approval with additional SHPO requirements.
 - b. White River: 4 road stream crossing replacements and in-stream habitat restoration
 - i. Working through designs and hope to have permits submitted by end of the year
 - c. Stony Creek/Marshville Dam: dam remnant removal, two bridge removals, one bridge replacement, and in-stream habitat restoration
 - i. Public meeting on 10/20/22
 - ii. Almost to 100% designs hope to have permits submitted by end of November
4. Yellow Perch study in drown river mouth lakes
 - a. Graduate student Tyler Hoyt (hoytt@mail.gvsu.edu)
 - b. Research with GVSU, Perdu, and DNR
 - c. Assess angler harvest of yellow perch on drown river mouth (DRM) lakes
 - d. Hypothesis: Lake Michigan perch migrate to DRM lakes seasonally
 - e. Testing 6 lakes in during the summer and winter
 - i. Fin clip and small tissue sample
 - ii. GVSU will be taking the samples

- iii. The samples need to be fresh as DNR degrades after a few hours
- f. Importance: impacts population numbers if removed from DRM lakes and counted as that population instead of Lake Michigan population

5. WMWP Participants / Round Robin

- a. White River/Lake: DIY gauges out, temp loggers out, some macro sampling done this year, and DNR fisheries report for the North Branch should be completed soon as sampling took place this summer. Economic impact study with GVSU is a yearlong and started this summer. Results would be comparable for other DRM lakes. Reinvite the White Lake Board to these meetings. TU has habitat project on Martin Creek, proposal for habitat work on Carlton Creek, and tree planting event at White River Roadside Park. River Cleanup was on September 24th.
- b. Little Flower Creek: No update
- c. Stony Creek: See above. See above. Project designs will include ADA fishing platform. Oceana Conservation District (OCD) now has a 40 acre land gift for a Nature Preserve on Stony Lake.
- d. Pentwater River/Lake: Formed Friends of Pentwater River Watershed, DNR fishers conducted a fish study on both the North and South branches, working on gather funds for a GVSU household survey, road stream crossing survey will use TU's system, working with EGLE for next steps on their watershed plan because the current one no longer qualifies, Limno Tech working with COS for E/D on Big Sandy Bend, WMSRDC has proposal in to continue Big Sandy Bend project through implementation.
- e. Mona Lake/Black Creek/Little Black Creek: No update
- f. Muskegon River: Maple River hydraulic study and events to share work (those on the call did not know details)
- g. Muskegon Lake/Bear Creek/Lake: Working on delisting which will take about two years to go through all needed monitoring and paperwork, working on invasive control and habitat upkeep at restoration sites, partnering with MCC on eutrophication event, working on maintaining public access to the lake with new developments on the lakeshore.
- h. Duck Creek/Lake: Tropic status shows amazing resilience, watermilfoil hybrid that treatment was not effective on this summer, hope to have a new survey of the plant community next year.
- i. Pere Marquette River/Lake: No update
- j. Crystal Creek: (add to the list for next time) Dam is failing, Spicer conducted investigative work, options are removal, repair, or replace, the county will decide the option they will move forward with at the November meeting. Crystal Creek flows into the North Branch of the Pentwater River, so the group is hopeful that work at the dam will also repair habitat.

6. Current Funding Opportunities

- a. Clean Boats Clean Waters: add multiple watersheds together for a better \$3,00 application for signage

- i. Michigan Lakes and Streams Association were handing out smaller signs, but looking at obtaining larger signs that cost about \$400 each.
 - ii. Other invasive species signage funding opportunities mentioned: Pentwater Community Foundation and Women Who Care
 - iii. WMSRDC and OCD should hold a meeting regarding funding opportunities
- b. [Michigan Coastal Management Program 2024 Annual Grant Funding Opportunity](#)
- c. [2023 Grant Funding Opportunity Creating a Culture of Resilience Capacity \(michigan.gov\)](#)
- d. [2023 Request for Proposals State High Water Infrastructure Grant Program \(michigan.gov\)](#)
 - i. Could add a few small construction projects or a few planning projects
 - ii. Rain gardens are eligible
 - iii. Dune stabilization in areas of erosion
 - 1. Stabilization around sea walls
 - iv. Could invasive species management work for the resiliency aspect?
 - v. WMSRDC will follow up due to end of meeting time

7. Next Meeting Date: Thursday, January 19th, 2023 at 1:30 pm