



West Michigan Watershed Partners (WMWP)

January 16, 2025

Meeting Notes

Attendance: John Stivers, Tom Tissue, Garry McKeen, Rich Pugsley, Erin Kuhn, Kim Balke, Paul Haan, JoAnn Barrett, Armas Soorus, Sky Harsch, Ray Schinler, Matthias Bonzo, Robert Smart, Kathy Evans, and Fallon Chabala

1. National Estuarine Research Reserves (NERR)
 - NOAA is supportive of the NERR in West Michigan; however, they still do not have the resources to start the process of a new NERR.

2. Current Funding Opportunities
 - [National Coastal Resilience Fund 2024 Request for Proposals | NFWF](#)
 - i. WMSRDC was awarded the project and is working on the contract.
 - [Sustain Our Great Lakes](#)
 - [Nonpoint Source Implementation RFP FY 2025](#)
 - i. Little Manistee group is planning to submit a letter of intent
 - [NOAA Restoring Fish Passage through Barrier Removal Grants](#)
 - i. TU is submitting for sites in both Wisconsin and Michigan
 - [NOAA Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience Grants](#)
 - [NOAA Coastal Habitat Restoration and Resilience Grants for Tribes and Underserved Communities](#)
 - [Great Lakes Fishery Trust Great Lakes Habitat Protection and Restoration program](#)
 - Great Lakes Fisheries Trust educational grant proposal is being submitted by Oceana Conservation District with Pentwater to update a stream booklet

3. NOAA/WMSRDC Regional Partnership Projects (Current)
 - Little Cedar Creek: 2 road stream crossing replacements and in-stream habitat restoration
 - i. Results from GVSU monitoring may be presented at the next meeting.
 - White River: 4 road stream crossing replacements and in-stream habitat restoration
 - i. Results from GVSU monitoring at two may be presented at the next meeting.
 - ii. Post-restoration monitoring for the remaining two sites will be done next summer by GVSU.
 - Stony Creek/Marshville Dam: dam remnant removal, two bridge removals, one bridge replacement, and in-stream habitat restoration
 - i. Post-restoration monitoring will be conducted next summer by GVSU.

4. Watershed Updates

- White: White River is continuing macro sampling (17 sites last year), 8 temperature loggers were deployed, graphics have been made of the raw data and sent to local stakeholders, 5 DIY stations, PHD biologist on distribution of didymo, and funding for communications (updating the website and activities). White Lake received a community foundation grant for in-depth water testing by GVSU AWRI (4 sites within the lake) – report is attached, building a remote sensing buoy, and there is interest in moving data collection further past the mouth of the river. TU submitted a proposal to national fish passage program to add a second Flinton Creek crossing replacement.
- Little Flower: no update
- Stony: Fishing platform is ready to be installed, locals have noticed an increase in brown trout and brook trout, Oceana County Parks have voted to pave the parking lot after the installation of the fishing platform, and planting plan bid package will be bid out soon.
- Pentwater: Considering volunteering taking small steps with Sandy Bend as grant proposals have not worked out so far, EGLE will conduct water quality monitoring in Pentwater watershed (as well as a creek in Stony watershed and Little Flower Creek), 2020 report for the watershed is now available, and 3 temperature monitors were installed this past year. Crystal Valley dam has not had much movement as a repair proposal was denied.
- Mona Lake/Black: WMSRDC is working with GVSU and local stakeholders on a project in Little Black Creek.
- Muskegon: TU West branch of Bigelow x 40th St. is permitted and will go into construction this year and final fundraising for Bigelow x Corton Harty, after these are completed the Bigelow Watershed will be fully reconnected. Muskegon River Army Core of Engineers are working on Maple River hydrology, contract out for engineering of crossings, Penoyer Creek dam removals (3) fund raising and engineering this year. Muskegon Lake is working on restoration and public access on a site where the south branch meets the lake (involves a land swap and port activities), restoration and public access improvements at Grand Trunk site.
- Duck: Completion of a trail system owned by Fruitland Township (boardwalk cross the creek 3 times) and there is a habitat committee to prevent the spread of invasive species at this new location.
- Pere Marquette: CRA stabilized a railroad embankment last year – follow-up this year, Baldwin project, which involves a dam removal, sea lamprey barrier, trail crossing, and river restoration, is at 60% designs and working on implementation funding, timber bridge going in on Cole Creek, instream habitat on the Little South Branch (planning 5 sites in 5 years), and wild roots work include 3,000 tree plantings at various sites on the main stem, 40 acres of aspen regeneration, and survey work for other wildlife habitat improvements needs.
- Manistee: CRA has 10 road stream crossings in various stages of design in the Pine River, Little Manistee stream bank work, 8 road stream crossing projects in the Upper Manistee, and number of tree planting efforts. Looking at 15 road stream crossing on the Little Manistee, monitoring stations, macro invertebrate studies are wrapped up for 2024.

5. Next Meeting Dates: April 17th, July 17th, and October 16th