



West Michigan Watershed Partners (WMWP)

April 20, 2023

Meeting Notes

Attendance: Rich Pugsley, Ray Schinler, Garry McKeen, Jack Epstein, Carl Ruetz, Jake Lemon, Kathy Evans, John Stivers, Erin Kuhn, Fallon Chabala

1. SWFI
 - a. Not sent to legislation yet. Meeting with partners that joined the round table meetings in 2020 were invited to an update meeting on May 15th. Let Fallon know if you did not receive an invite but would like to attend.
2. National Estuarine Research Reserves (NERR)
 - a. Letter from the Governor has been resent to NOAA. NOAA has two other NERR requests, so they will come back to the Michigan request in October, the start of the next fiscal year.
3. Current Funding Opportunities
 - a. [FY23 Request for Watershed Council Support Proposals \(michigan.gov\)](https://michigan.gov/fy23request)
 - i. Due May 17th
 - ii. Up to \$40,000
 - iii. Match encouraged
 - iv. 1 year time frame
 - v. Pentwater group is interested in this proposal. Muskegon Lake Watershed partnership is planning to apply to use this to start updating the watershed management plan. Trout Unlimited is working with Newago, Ocean, and Muskegon Conservation Districts for a proposal for capacity building the White River to work with landowner outreach for restoration projects.
 - b. [Michigan Coastal Management Program 2023 Coastal Habitat and Land Acquisition GFO](#)
 - i. Pre-proposal due June 5th
 - ii. Webinar May 3rd
 - iii. Up to 6 million
 - iv. Match encouraged

- v. Eligible applicants include local units of government, cities, counties, villages, Tribal governments, and state agencies within Michigan's coastal counties
 - 1. Funding is looking for landowner to apply
 - vi. With this you apply to the State and the State is picking their priorities to apply nationally
 - c. [National Coastal Resilience Fund 2023 Request for Proposals | NFWF](#)
 - i. Proposal was due April 12th
 - ii. Full Proposal due June 28th
 - iii. Since this funding likes a pipeline approach to funding projects grouped together in stages, WMSRDC submitted a pre-proposal for the first stage of "Community Capacity Building & Planning"
 - d. NOAA Regional Partnership
 - i. Not out yet but starting to collect ideas now.
 - e. Ideas
 - i. Natural shorelines
 - ii. Crystal Valley
 - 1. Funding from US Fish and Wildlife to prevent sea lamprey spread
4. NOAA/WMSRDC Regional Partnership Projects (Current)
- a. Little Cedar Creek: 2 road stream crossing culvert replacements and in-stream habitat restoration
 - i. Have NEPA approval. Should start construction this spring.
 - b. White River: 4 road stream crossing replacements and in-stream habitat restoration
 - i. Almost ready to submit designs for restoration permits. Bridge/culvert replacement permits have been accepted by EGLE. Working on NEPA approval.
 - c. Stony Creek/Marshville Dam: dam remnant removal, two bridge removals, one bridge replacement, and in-stream habitat restoration
 - i. Permits were submitted. Pushing construction to spring of 2024 to allow CRA to enter into a contract with a funding source.
5. WMWP Participants / Round Robin
- a. White River/Lake: 4 DIY sensors are now deployed (1 in the north branch, 1 in Hesperia close to the dam, 1 in Carlton Creek, 1 in White Could not too far from the dam) data is at monitormywatershed.org (this site is free to use, but there is cost to get data from the station to the site. A sensor is \$1,600). 8 temperature loggers will be deployed this year (these are about \$125). TU has put in a lot of work to determine priorities in the watershed and now has many projects in the planning phase. Now starting to fund raise for design work.
 - b. Little Flower Creek: No update

- c. Stony Creek: See project above. Pushing to spring of 2024 so all construction is done at the same time. Oceana County has updated GIS layers to include filter by watersheds.
- d. Pentwater River/Lake: Working on a household survey, with GVSU. Starting inventory of road stream crossing in the next few weeks, using TU system. Sharing finding with the road commission. The watershed group is officially part of the Lake Association to be considered a 501c. Lake manager and project director for natural shorelines along Pentwater Lake.
- e. Crystal Creek: The Oceana County Board has still not made a final decision regarding the dam.
- f. Mona Lake/Black Creek/Little Black Creek: No update
- g. Muskegon River/Muskegon Lake/Bear Creek/Lake: Muskegon Lake: Avoiding an Erie Situation was a success for harmful algae education. Another event is being held at Muskegon Community College. This event led to increased interest in a Muskegon Lake Watershed Management Plan. Monthly volunteer group to control invasives at restoration sites around the Lake. Annual Clean-up on April 23rd. Muskegon Lake Public Access Committee meets regularly. Working on an urban tree canopy plan with neighborhood associations and schools. Working on BUI documents to remove Muskegon Lake as an AOC. MRWA is working on a watershed management plan upstream of the lake watershed and landowner outreach regarding dam assessments.
- h. Duck Creek/Lake: No update
- i. Pere Marquette River/Lake: No update
- j. Manistee/Little Man/Pine: DNA meta barcoding of macro invertebrates. Working with GVSU on meta barcoding of Hemlock woolly adelgid. UAV exploratory work for road stream crossing inventories. Genotyping wild rice.

6. Other Discussion

- a. Eutrophication webinars:
 - i. <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLAyMzPFzDwiLXp4-Talfpv1PI-OzHiVAz>
- b. Septic webinars:
 - i. [A Model for Evaluating Septic Pollution: 2023 Ice Breaker Speaker Series - YouTube](#)
 - ii. [FLOW Webinar - The Case for a Statewide Septic Code in Michigan - Live Recording March 21 2023 - YouTube](#)
- c. Road brining and runoff questions: something to investigate.

7. Next Meeting Date: Next meeting is July 20th, 2023