



West Michigan Watershed Partners (WMWP)

July 18, 2024

Quarterly Meeting Agenda

Attendance: Garry McKeen, John Stivers, Kathy Evans, Carl Ruetz, Paul Haan, Tom Tissue, Sky Harsch, Tamara Horne, Erin Kuhn, DJ Shook, and Fallon Chabala

1. National Estuarine Research Reserves (NERR)
 - NOAA supports the concept of a West Michigan NERR but does not have the capacity to move forward. They will reassess and reach out in October of 2024.
2. Current Funding Opportunities
 - [Inflation Reduction Act Community Change Grants Program | US EPA](#)
 - i. WMSRDC is planning to submit for a Little Black Creek project with GVSU
 - [Access to the Great Lakes Fishery - Great Lakes Fishery Trust \(glft.org\)](#)
 - i. WMSRDC is submitting a project for Longbridge Rd Pier in Pentwater
3. NOAA/WMSRDC Regional Partnership Projects (Current)
 - Little Cedar Creek: 2 road stream crossing replacements and in-stream habitat restoration
 - i. GVSU is completing post monitoring now
 - White River: 4 road stream crossing replacements and in-stream habitat restoration
 - i. Buchanan Road crossing is almost complete, the 1,000 habitat restoration upstream of Buchanan is complete, the habitat restoration downstream of Pierce is also complete
 - Stony Creek/Marshville Dam: dam remnant removal, two bridge removals, one bridge replacement, and in-stream habitat restoration
 - i. The dam has been removed, the crossing has been replaced with an open span timber bridge, the 2,500 feet of in-stream habitat restoration is wrapping up
4. Boys & Girls Club: shoreline restoration
 - Un-natural fill was removed from the lake, and over 500 feet of shoreline softening/stabilization is complete
5. Watershed Updates
 - White: The watershed partnership received a watershed support grant from EGLE which will be used to update their website and follow-up on strategic planning/communication strategy. Regarding White Lake there have been presentations on Sadony Bayou projects.

- Little Flower: no updates
- Stony: The Marshville dam project is going very well, the bridge was complete in about 5 weeks, restoration is almost complete, and a boardwalk will be constructed later this year. RPF for tree planning around the habitat restoration will be released soon. Oceana Conservation District just received their award letter for their coastal corridor project on Stony, which will be used to restore areas impacted by HWA and maintain shade in the riparian habitat.
- Pentwater: The results from the social survey have been synthesized by GVSU into a report and will help with goal setting for the watershed, showed outreach should be focused on what general residents can do to help the water quality. The pond behind the Crystal Valley Dam is continuing to build up sediment and continues to warm the creek this summer. The county is still interested in restoring the dam and dredging the pond but it is unsure where that money will come from.
- Mona Lake/Black: WMSRDC submitted a proposal for monitoring on Little Black Creek. There has been a superfund meeting at Egleston Township regarding Bofors Nobel site on Black Creek. Hoping for a group to be formed to help efforts move forward on the three superfund sites within Black Creek.
- Muskegon: Muskegon Lake is focused on non-point source, public access, and land acquisition for habitat improvement. Working on trying to find funding for a watershed management plan, EGLE has completed a wetland assessment for the watershed. Working on opening the DNR property on Grand Trunk that is currently behind a fence, with talked from landowners this project may end with more public access than what is currently owned by the DNR. The action plan will be updated within the next year. The benthos BUI, the final BUI before delisting, is currently under review. In the Muskegon River MRWA is working on the hydraulic study for the side channel in the Maple River project, as well as design work for two road stream crossings for the project. Also designing three dam removals on Penoyer Creek in Newaygo and working on fund raising for this project.
- Duck: 300 acre site owned by the Fruitland Township is the site of a new trail system for public use (Duck Lake Natural Area) ADA accessible, considering impacts of increased access in the area especially in regard to invasive species. Monitoring continues in the Lake, showing the lake has not changed trophic status in the last 40 years. The biggest concern for the lake is invasive species.
- Pere Marquette: CRA completed a bank stabilization along the railroad. For the Baldwin Dam it is looking like the Great Lakes Fishery Commission will approve a seasonal barrier be installed so the dam can be removed without increased sea lamprey migration. Road stream crossing design almost complete for Cole Creek and 24th St. On the Little South branch working with landowners for instream habitat improvements. Group of partners working to protect seedlings and planting in riparian lands for grouse habitat.
- Manistee: CRA is working with DNR on several road stream crossings in coordination with the tribe and TU on grayling restoration efforts. Identifying where ash trees were previously and reforesting those areas with a biodiversity with the Forest Service. In the Pine, 10 road stream crossings are being designed and a design for the stabilization of sugar bowl site.

6. Next Meeting Date: October 17, 2024