



**West Michigan Watershed Partners
(WMWP)**

July 21, 2022

Meeting Notes

1. Welcome and Introduction
2. Sustainable Watersheds Funding Initiative (SWFI)
 - a. Proposal for Erb Family Foundation for additional funding has been awarded
 - b. Statewide MOU has been signed by all current partners
 - c. Facilitated meeting are working on details such as who should be eligible to received funding and the who would review funding proposals.
3. National Estuarine Research Reserves (NERR)
 - a. Erin Kuhn (WMSRDC) is working with Al Stienman (GVSU AWRI) are working on a letter from the Governor to the Federal Government.
4. Updates on Existing Projects and Grant Proposals
 - d. NOAA/WMSRDC Regional Partnership Projects (Current)
 - i. Little Cedar Creek: 2 road stream crossing culvert replacements and in-stream habitat restoration
 1. Permits have been obtained for both sites.
 2. Working on NEPA approval with additional SHPO requirements.
 - ii. White River: 4 road stream crossing replacements and in-stream habitat restoration
 1. GEI is working on habitat designs.
 2. Scott Civil Engineering conducted a site visit with EGLE and is now ready to send designs for permits.
 3. Survey Overview by GVSU:
 - a. Swinton Creek had a good population of brook trout. Other fish sampled included brown trout, steelhead, smolt, sculpin, black nose dace, white suckers, and others. Fairly standard headwater fish communities.

- b. Cushman Creek had some brown trout. Population included creek chub, pumpkin seed, large mouth bass, and lake chub suckers, black nose dace, sculpin, and lamprey.
 - iii. Stony Creek/Marshville Dam: dam remnant removal, two bridge removals, one bridge replacement, and in-stream habitat restoration
 - 1. Public meeting held to share plans and provide time to questions and feedback. All went well.
 - 2. GEI is at about 30% design.
 - 3. CRA is applying for implementation funding and platform funding.
 - 4. GVSU is surveying this next week.
- e. WMWP Participants / Round Robin
 - i. White River/Lake: DNR sampled on the North branch below Arthur Road, and found some large brown trout, lots of small steelhead and chinook, but no brook trout. Temperature loggers out at 6 locations. Completed 6 macroinvertebrate sampling. AIS landing blitz at Montague boat launch. Sampling at 2 Mile Road for didymo but didn't find any. TU is completing road stream crossing assessments extending this year. Habitat mapping to map instream habitat conditions. Working with White River Watershed Partnership to deploy a monitoring station on Carlton Creek. Another station in the works on the South branch, downstream of the dam in Hesperia. Working with the U.S. Forest Service on the potential of removing the Minnie Pond Dam at Mena Creek. Working on evaluation methods for evaluating groundwater influence for climate resiliency; results anticipated in late 2023. Economic impact study by GVSU to start soon. Riparian planning at Martin Creek and Dimond point. In stream habitat on Martin Creek. Steam clean-up planed for September 24th. Working with MDOT on a riparian planting at White River Roadside Park likely on October 22nd.
 - ii. Little Flower Creek: Survey work this year by EGLE
 - iii. Stony Creek: See above. Sediment is 90% sand, so testing is likely not needed.
 - iv. Pentwater River/Lake: Limno Tech working with COS for E/D on Big Sandy Bend, waiting on project meeting to know more about progress.
 - v. Mona Lake/Black Creek/Little Black Creek: GVSU is monitoring in the old celery flat pond and the conservation district is planning restoration work.
 - vi. Muskegon River: no update
 - vii. Muskegon Lake/Bear Creek/Lake: AOC management actions complete and working on BUI removal documents.
 - viii. Duck Creek/Lake: no update
 - ix. Pere Marquette River/Lake: no update

5. Current Funding Opportunities

- a. [Restoring Fish Passage through Barrier Removal Grants | NOAA Fisheries](#)

- b. [Access to the Great Lakes Fishery 2020 Application Guidance \(glft.org\)](https://glft.org)
 - c. [FY22 Request for Watershed Planning Proposals \(michigan.gov\)](https://michigan.gov)
 - d. [Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience Grants | NOAA Fisheries](https://www.noaa.gov)
6. Project ideas
- a. Crystal Valley Dam
 - b. Let Fallon know if you have new ideas
7. Next Meeting Date: Oct. 20th, 2022
- a. New meeting link and calendar invite sent out with meeting notes.