



# Conservation Resource Alliance

## Little Manistee River Partnership

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Conservation Resource Alliance  
United States Forest Service  
Conservation Resource Alliance  
Osceola-Lake Conservation District  
Manistee Soil Conservation District  
Manistee County Road Commission  
Lake County Road Commission  
Little Manistee River Watershed Conservation Council

Little River Band of Ottawa Indians  
Pine River Area Trout Unlimited  
Michigan Council of Trout Unlimited  
Lake County Board of Commissioners  
Manistee County Board of Commissioners  
Lake County Riverside Property Owners Assn.  
Lake County Drain Commissioner  
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality  
Indian Club

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### Draft Little Manistee River Partnership Meeting Notes

**Venue:** USFS Ranger Station, Cadillac

**Date:** January 30, 2018

**Time:** 10:00 a.m.

**Notes and Facilitator:** Nate Winkler, Conservation Resource Alliance

#### **Attendance:**

**Nate Winkler, Amy Beyer,** Conservation Resource Alliance

**Mark Tonello,** Michigan Department of Natural Resources

**Andrea Ania,** US Forest Service

**Tim Phillips, Jim Squiers,** Little Manistee River Watershed Conservation Council

#### **Project Updates**

The following items were reported on and/or discussed by the group:

#### **CRA update**

Winkler provided the following updates:

- Final design specifications have been received by NRCS and will be submitted with the JPA for dam removal to the MDEQ
- Several eroding banks sites both on private and State-owned property continue to be evaluated for stabilization work with some permit applications in process which are required by both the MDNR (Special Use) and MDEQ (Inland Lakes and Streams). These sites were identified in the 2011, 2014 eroding streambank inventory performed by CRA
- A permit has been issued by MDEQ for the Jorgensen site. The permit issued falls under the “minor” category and as such, the wood installed on the site can only project 4’ into the channel. In the future, if there’s a desire for wood to project further, an “individual” permit application will be required which includes a \$500 fee as well as an automatic public notice requirement
- Beyer circulated a CRA “Homewaters” list of Little Manistee River stakeholders for the group to review to make corrections/additions/deletions

MDNR update

Tonello reported on the following items:

- The grayling reintroduction project being led by the MDNR and the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians is currently on hold to accommodate a renovation of the Oden State Fish Hatchery so it may support the development of brood stock. Broodstock production is expected to take approximately 3 years
- In response to Phillips' comment regarding rainbow trout in the Little Manistee River, Tonello indicated that rainbow trout stocking was discontinued to prevent negative impacts on wild-reproducing steelhead
- A new weir construction proposal has been put forward by the Army Corps near the location of the current MDNR weir in an effort to completely block sea lamprey. The design effort will be a collaboration between the Army Corps and US Fish and Wildlife Service. An issue with the current weir is the accumulation of sediment on the upstream side when the weir is operational which results in smothering the supply-line intakes. Ania added that the EA would be released sometime in February in addition to the required (and yet to be done) Section 7 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act determination (while only a "study river" under the Act, still has protections afforded it under the Act)
- Johnson's Bridge status and trends fishery surveys will commence in 2020
- Unrelated to the federal effort regarding the weir, the MDNR is performing \$2 million in upgrades including improvements of the raceways and ponds
- Tonello is still covering additional watersheds including the Muskegon, Pentwater, and the White and will be for the foreseeable future-as such, is stretched a bit thin

LMRWCC update

Phillips and Squiers reported on the following items:

- The LMRWCC submitted a grant application to the MDNR's "Aquatic Habitat Improvement Grant" program to help fund management of dead and down ash trees that recruit to the channel due to emerald ash borer mortality. The focus of the project will be the stretch between Kings Highway to Indian Bridge
- A watershed management plan is being developed by the LMRWCC under a contract with "Networks Northwest" which when complete, will allow access to funds provided by EPA for watershed restoration work. To garner stakeholder input on the plan, a survey has been set up on "Survey Monkey" (the URL is [www.surveymonkey.com/r/littlemanisteewatershed](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/littlemanisteewatershed))
- A program called "Snorkel with the Salmon" was launched recently in which high school students used snorkel and mask to swim amongst the salmon confined below the Little Manistee River MDNR weir

US Forest Service update

Ania, in response to a question by Squiers responded that Chris Riley is the "zone" fisheries biologist for the Balwin and Manistee Ranger Districts while Ania covers 80% of the overall fisheries needs for the HMNF and 20% of the East District of the HMNF.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 12:00 p.m.

(Notes by Winkler)

**Action Items**

**Winkler** to post the most recent streambank erosion survey on the “Northern Michigan Streams” website.

**Winkler** to invite **Neil Shock** to accompany him on site visits in the watershed.

**Ania** to forward “Section 7 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act” materials to **Phillips** and **Squiers**

**Winkler** to share Syers Lake Dam summary with Little Manistee River “Howewaters” list

**Acronyms and Abbreviations**

Army Corps	US Army Corps of Engineers
CRA	Conservation Resource Alliance
EA	Environmental Assessment
HMNF	Huron Manistee National Forest
JPA	Joint Permit Application
LMRWCC	Little Manistee River Watershed Conservation Council
MDEQ	Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
MDNR	Michigan Department of Natural Resources
URL	Universal Resource Locator (web address)
USFS	United States Forest Service