

LITTLE MANISTEE RIVER WATERSHED STEERING COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes: 9/13/2017

Corrections to 8/2/2017 Minutes:

Add Chris Riley To Attendance

Add To Minutes - Lakes Water Monitoring and Lake Associations (include and discuss next meeting)

PRESENT: Armas Soorus, Ed Hoogterp, David Spruance, Shaughn Barnett, Kayla Knoll, Rob Carson, Chris Riley, Greg Goudy, Kevin Kincare, Shane Brennan, Joyce Durdell, Jeremy Geist

No agenda revisions requested.

Contracts Status Update - Armas:

Contracts for Consultants and Expenditures - As of today, final work on the contract between LMWCC and the Alliance for Economic Success for their services is complete. The AES has agreed to sign it within the next few days and then it is finished. Also, two LMWCC resolutions were passed regarding transfer of funds 'in phases' from their account at the Manistee Co. Community Foundation to the Alliance for Economic Success. The resolutions set protocol for payments, as work progresses in phases, to Networks Northwest for our consultants, Ed Hoogterp and Scott Gest.

Ed asked Armas to display 2 maps, titled Main map and Base map

Ed reviewed some changes in wording to a handout referred to as a 'Designated Use Chart' presented at our previous meeting. Some changes made to the handout include: pollutants changed to environmental stressors; siltation is now referred to as sediment only; eliminated public water supply as not applicable; added agriculture; and sites at risk of degradation referred only to cold water fishery and decided that warm water fishery should be added.

Ed also outlined the proposed Watershed/Water Quality Survey, as a final version that will be sent out to stakeholders soon. He offered explanation for some change, saying, "the first two sections are from the State of Michigan 'Social Indicators Survey' so results should be able to be comparable to what other watersheds have found. One change, in the other survey there was never anything that said, 'good fishing,' it was 'fish habitat' so we altered that to add 'high quality fishing and fish habitat, as it seems to be appropriate in this watershed. That is different than 'eating locally caught fish' because of fish consumption issues. I also modified the next section a little bit to say of those activities, which is most important to you? On the state survey, people would choose three or four and then their software kicked out the response, so here we say, 'which one is most important to you.' Also, on sources of water pollution, maybe we should say environmental stressors. I condensed the lead-ins to save space and added a line for 'other.' One major change, instead of a general statement about State and Federal actions, added a more specific statement 'Would you support' a) Natural River designation b) Zoning for building setbacks from the river c) Enforce septic system setbacks d) Watershed education and voluntary action.

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When it is formatted, there will be a space for comments, and if desired they can fold it over and tape it to return.

A conversation ensued with several people offering input on the format, order of questions, wording changes and possibly prioritizing/ranking responses. The group also discussed how to distribute the survey with the hope of getting a good return and ways to connect with all age groups. Ed will ask for a ranking of activities based on importance, and change the word riparian to shoreline or stream bank. There will be a place for comments on the back. A suggestion was made to change the sequence of the questions about support of the Natural Rivers Designation to start with 'Education' and end with 'Natural River Designation.' An electronic copy will be sent to Armas that can be distributed to everyone.

Ed did not get further feedback on Goals and Objectives handout, so we are moving forward with what we have (as displayed on the screen.) All tasks will relate back to goals we are trying to achieve. A discussion about the goals ensued with some ideas for slight modifications. Goals will be looked at again and will be changed and adjusted as we go along but it is good to get them close to expectations early on.

Goal related discussion included the following items:

We talked a bit about non-motorized vs. motorized trails and decided to use 'low impact' as an alternative. Maybe use as part of our education goal? We have no real way to enforce guidelines, i.e., the message becomes, "how can we have this activity and keep it low impact?"

Recreational boating - what is an appropriate use for the river, consensus is that it is that canoes and kayaks use the river now at an acceptable level, except downriver near Stronach where the boaters come in larger groups and leave trash behind. Concern about how we will quantify this kind of impact for the river AND lakes came up. What is appropriate water craft and how do we get them on and off the river/lake? Ed replied that these discussion comments will help us establish goals and define implementation projects, such as developing a better system of access. Quantification may include inventories where we determine (as an example) 'road ends where we have damage.' There is some indication that access may be an issue when boaters attempt to cross private property to enter/exit the river. One question was, 'can we establish a baseline reference to determine what is the amount of use, high, moderate or low, in the river now?' and was followed by a suggestion to use college students to do a study on usage and establish a use reference. Ed used this as an example of discovering things we don't already know, and the discoveries become implementation tasks, something we need to do as part of the plan. There are still a lot of questions on recreational use impacts and access to be considered.

Comments made on sedimentation, not all sources of sediment are 'human caused.'

The critical areas posted on the maps were reviewed. What are the critical areas?

- 1) Where is the mouth (?) Ends at downstream side of the tubes? Need to define.
- 2) Weir - impact/temperature
- 3) Linke pond/temperature
- 4) Syers Lk dam, Cool Lk

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- 5) Cool Cr. - Farm on stream
- 6) Luther Dam/Park
- 7) Headwaters Dam
- 8) Manistee Co. Landfill?
- 9) Gravel Pits - Any testing? In Elk Twp., Lake Co., belongs to Mason Co., - one in Manistee next to river south side of river just downstream from 9 Mile Bridge -Warm water seepage to river? Mason Co. / Manistee Co.
- 10) 6 Mile Bridge Rd. erosion and access erosion (most guides drop in at the weir)
- 11) Flies only section - Johnson Br. to Spencer Br. (erosion near Spencer Br. and 5 Mile Rd.)

Priorities to be looked at:

River - water habitat, woody debris

Wetland function

Ground water - high quality

Access - lake and river

Trails

Cultural heritage sites - LRBOI location

National Forest

Ash trees die off - loss of canopy, shade - riparian owners

Luther Dam Park

Lakes (40 in Elk Twp. alone) need to name them - fish species - river/lake interconnectedness

Cool Cr., Stronach Cr., Syers Cr., Twin Cr.

Meeting adjourned by Armas at 4:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Durdel