

**LITTLE MANISTEE RIVER WATERSHED STEERING COMMITTEE/LMWCC  
2/2/2019 Meeting Minutes**

**LITTLE MANISTEE RIVER WATERSHED SUMMIT MEETING**

**Elk Township Hall, Irons, MI**

**Present:** Armas Soorus-LMWCC, Joyce Durdel-LMWCC, Mark Tonello-MDNR Fisheries, Lisa Leedy-Alliance for Economic Success, Tim Phillips-LMWCC, Dan Sernick-LMWCC, Dale Downs-LMWCC, Jim Squier-LMWCC, Blake Krueger, Dennis Depp, Josh Shields-MACD, Robert Long, John Potts, Bruce Appel, Kurt H. Schindler, Scott VanSingel-District 100 State Representative.

**Purpose of Meeting:** This meeting was scheduled as the first step in implementing the Little Manistee River Watershed Management Plan. It is the first annual summit to review progress and understand the status of the tasks identified in the watershed management plan and identify and plan specific tasks for the coming year.

**Agenda:**

Armas Soorus gave the group an update on the status of the Little Manistee River Watershed Management Plan. The document creation is in its final stages. Finishing touches are being put on the maps and the various chapters, tables, maps and graphs are being merged into one coherent document. We expect completion for submission in the next few weeks.

We had a brief discussion about the purpose of the meeting and the purpose of the watershed management plan itself. The idea of a watershed management plan was initially driven by roadblocks the LMWCC was running into qualifying for grants for work on the river. Several other rivers in the area have watershed management plans and we are finding it more difficult to compete for grants from major funding without a state and federal approved watershed management plan. Over time we have found that the plan gives us a work plan that can give our efforts structure, continuity, clarity and help prioritize tasks. It also gives us credibility as an organization that has a plan approved by state and federal authorities. When we submit grant applications for items in the plan our request had much greater impact as part of the approved plan.

The plan will soon be submitted for approval to both state and federal authorities and both have requirements for specific topics the plan must address. They do not tell us how to address these topics. It is an outline - the plan must fill in the details. The job of the steering committee has been to determine specifically how the watershed community wants to address each of these topics in the plan. The tasks identified by the steering committee and put in the plan are listed on the attached spread sheet and were categorized and then given general priorities and target dates.

The purpose of this meeting is to identify specific task objectives for the next year and who will lead their completion.

The group then proceeded to review the attached spread sheet. We discussed and completed the Current Tasks sections on the righthand side of each page for pages 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 12. Results of our discussions are detailed on the right had "Current Tasks" section or each page of the document.

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<b>Tab Name</b>	<b>Tab Description</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>Cat A</b>	<b>Shoreline/Streambank Issues</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Cat B</b>	<b>Stormwater and Run-off</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Cat C</b>	<b>Planning, Zoning and Land Use</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Cat D</b>	<b>Road-Stream Issues</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Cat F</b>	<b>Habitat for Fish and Wildlife</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Cat K</b>	<b>Wastewater and Septic Systems</b>	<b>12</b>

The remaining pages and categories will be addressed at a later date(s). We will notify you as we schedule that work.

During our lunch break we got the opportunity to hear from State Representative Scott VanSingel-District 100. He is a property owner along the Little Manistee River and the 4<sup>th</sup> generation of his family is now enjoying the Little Manistee. He gave us an update on his activities in Lansing and is a proponent of scientific management of our natural resources.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 by general consensus.

I would like to thank everyone for their time and effort. This was a long time to stay on subject and we covered a lot of ground.

Respectfully submitted,

Armas Soorus  
LMRWSC/LMWCC