

Armas,

I will not be able to attend the meeting today due to a conflict with the Pere Marquette Restoration committee meeting at the same time.

The Restoration meeting includes people from the four counties in the PM Watershed who coordinate efforts involving the river: USFS MDNR land conservancies, several road commissions, TU, CRA and others who care about the resource. We have a river plan.

Regarding your River Plan, I would point out that Manistee County has a Waste Management Plan, and if they did not they could not operate a waste treatment facility. They probably have a Recreation Plan on file with the state, otherwise they could not apply for state recreation grants. These are decades- old policies.

Your river, if acted on, allows Manistee County to apply for grants and adds weight to their application. With decreasing salmon populations, the threat of Asian Carp, water pollution threats and whatever else is out there, Manistee would be negligent if they did not have a plan.

In my experience, the only persons who oppose planning are those who hope to game the system and grab more than their share of everybody's resource. This short term personal gain depreciates the resource that everyone counts on for recreation, tourism, etc.

Paul Bigford, as a private citizen, drawing upon:
Supervisor, Sweetwater Twp., Lake County 36 years
Board of Directors, Michigan Resource Stewards
President, Pere Marquette Watershed Council
Board member, Lake County Riverside Property Owners Assoc
Vice Chair, Mason-Lake Conservation District
President, Lake County Twp Officers Association
And others

Feel free to use this letter as needed