

**LITTLE MANISTEE RIVER WATERSHED STEERING COMMITTEE/LMWCC  
2019 08 01 Meeting Minutes**

**LITTLE MANISTEE RIVER WATERSHED SUMMIT MEETING**

**Elk Township Hall, Irons, MI**

**Present:** Armas Soorus-LMWCC, Joyce Durdell-LMWCC, Abby Svoboda-Osceola Lake Conservation District, Steve Bishop-LMWCC/Indian Club, Mark Sweppenheiser-Osceola Lake Conservation District, Barb Stenger-Newkirk Township.

**Purpose of Meeting:** This meeting was scheduled as the next step in implementing the Little Manistee River Watershed Management Plan. It is the second meeting in the series 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:**

**1) 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. It was submitted to MDEQ (now Mi EGLE) for informal review on April 19, 2019. We are told it is next in line, but some work remains on the one ahead of us. Due to summer workloads we can't expect progress until about December.

**2) For those for at the meeting and new to the group we had a brief discussion about the purpose of the meeting and the purpose and content of the watershed management plan itself.**

The creation 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 very 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 has much greater impact as part of the approved plan.

The plan is ultimately 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.

**3) The purpose of this meeting is to identify specific task objectives 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 Tab for Tabs H, I and L. Results of our discussions are detailed on the right had "Current Tasks" section on each Tab of the document.

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Tab Name	Tab Description
Cat H	Hydrology, Groundwater and Wetlands
Cat I	Water Quality Monitoring
Cat L	Information and Education

Tabs A, B, C, D, F and K Were addressed at the previous meeting in February, the other tabs will be addressed at later date(s). We will notify you as we schedule that work.

The minutes and spread sheet will be on the LMWCC web site also.

I would like to thank everyone for their time and effort. This was a good meeting and we covered a lot of ground.

Respectfully submitted,

Armas Soorus  
LMRWSC/LMWCC