



UPPER BLACK RIVER COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes - June 20, 2013

The delayed spring meeting of the UBRC took place on Friday, June 20, 2013 at the Canada Creek Ranch House. The meeting began at 9:30. Those in attendance included:

Carol Rose, UBRC
Lisha Ramsdell, Huron Pines
Richard Bruot, UBRC Board
Tim Michiels, Black River Ranch
Paul Rose, MCCC
Scott Whitcomb, MDNR
Roxanne Merrick, MDEQ
Annie Rouse, Tip of the Mitt
Eric Johnson, CCR
Nancy C. Thurston, CCR
Pete Durno, BRR member

Heather Rawlings, USFWS
Tim Cwalinski, MDNR Fisheries
Ross Nave, UBRC Board
Joe Jarecki, UBRC Board
Nico Tucker, NEMCOG
Tom Williams, Montmorency Cons. District
Kevin Cronk, Tip of the Mitt
Bill Burgess, property owner
Tom Ames, CCR
John Walters, Headwaters TU
Cathy Abraham, MCD

The agenda was approved via motion by Tom Williams, second by Paul Rose.

Finances: Finances available for 2013 were inventoried. Cathy Abraham reported that the Montmorency Conservation District (MCD) had \$10,000 remaining from 2012 USFWS grant and another \$15,000 for 2013. Heather Rawlings of USFWS confirmed this. Lisha Ramsdell of Huron Pines (HP) indicated that HP was working on some large, combined proposals through the GLRI program. Carol Rose of the UBRC reported that a grant has been submitted to NFWF for use in 2014-2016.

Crew Update: Because of the delay of spring meeting planned for April, Nico Tucker reported that the 4-man crew was already in place and working on the Springs/Hardwood Creek permit sites. Materials seemed to be in good supply for 2013, but Nico would be following up to ensure that the crew is adequately supplied with cable, duckbill anchors, ferrules, etc. The crew is working four 10-hour days per week. According to Nico, there are plenty of sites on the Springs/Hardwood Creek permit to carry the crew through this year and into 2014, but beginning development of a new permit is a good idea.

Canada Creek Ranch: The crew will be setting aside 2-3 weeks for working on the CCR permit.

Black River Ranch: BRR member Pete Durno expressed his concerns about the longevity of some of the LWD's placed in recent years on the East Branch. A major rain event blew out several and others just haven't stayed together. Because the BRR permits are still open, the crew will go in and do maintenance on the damaged structures in 2013. It was suggested that consideration should be given going forward to alternatives to LWD's such as "lunker structures" which may be a better fit in areas where the streambank is soft and difficult to anchor cables into.

Road/Stream Crossing Projects:

- *Gokee Creek/Walker/Osmun Road:* Funding is being sought through USFWS Partners for Fish & Wildlife program.
- *Milligan Creek @ Waveland Road:* This site is a top priority from the MDNR

Fisheries standpoint. This was done about ten years ago, improperly, and perched culverts and fish passage are now the issues. This will be an expensive project and matches from various sources will be required to make this work. HP is working on funding for this.

- *Brady Road*: Needs either a bridge or a new culvert
- *Saunders Dam*: Lisha Ramsdell reported that no Hungerford's Crawling Water Beetles were found at the dam site. The dam removal permit has been submitted and is under review by DEQ. RFP's for removal of the dam have been developed and distributed to contractors for bids.
- *Foch Lake Dam*: Tim Cwalinski reported that repair of the dam will run about \$115,000. Bill Burgess mentioned that he and his family have visited Foch Lake for decades and hopes that the dam will be repaired and the lake restored. Burgess also expressed his appreciation of the recent work on Hodges Creek

Temp Loggers: Seventeen temp loggers have been installed on the Black, Milligan Creek, East Branch, McMasters Creek and Canada Creek. Tim Cwalinski emphasized the importance of the data these little devices provide on "the arteries and veins of the Black River system."

Sand Traps: The traps at Tin Shanty Bridge and the East Branch are tentatively planned for 2013. An estimate has been received from Gordon Ferguson Excavating. Northcott Excavating out of Onaway will be doing the four traps on CCR this year.

Canada Creek Erosion Site Inventory: After the initial "Sand Trap Tour" in early 2012, it was noted that a number of erosion sites upstream from the traps may be contributing to the sediment load into the creek. An updated inventory of such sites on Canada Creek downstream from CCR was suggested in advance of emptying the traps. Ideally, remediation of the erosion sites would take place. Carol Rose mentioned that she'd included costs for this inventory and a remediation permit in the NFWF grant application.

Volunteer Opportunities:

- Huron Pines has an ambitious schedule of volunteer opportunities throughout their service area planned for the summer and early fall.
- UBRC/TU Volunteer project - August 3, 2013, at one of the sinkhole lakes in the PRC.
- Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council - Kevin Cronk mentioned a solstice paddle, and another small evening kayak/canoe event on the Black.

UBRC Partner Updates:

- *Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council* - Kevin reported that their stream monitoring program continues. Milligan Creek has been included in their monitoring inventory, but volunteers are needed there to make this work. A monitor training session has been scheduled for September 15 in Petoskey.
- *Huron Pines* - Lisha reported that HP is working on a larger GLRI application which would include projects on all three of the rivers in the PRC.
- *Headwaters TU* - John Walters mentioned a new watershed group focused on the Sturgeon and Pigeon Rivers called SPAWN - Sturgeon Pigeon Area Watershed Network. Their next meeting is scheduled for August 15 at the Greenwood Sanctuary. On August 24, a Stream Sweep clean-up project will be taking place on several rivers in northern Michigan. John also mentioned that Headwaters TU had

an Americorps member doing inventory work on the Black and Sturgeon Rivers this season. Details to follow.

Web site Mapping Upgrades: Interactive mapping for the web site has been developed and will be going live yet this summer. A brief on-line presentation of the mapping was given before the meeting ended. Jason Evans, NEMCOG intern and UBRC crew member worked with Nico on the GIS mapping for the project.

The last order of business was scheduling the wrap-up meeting. Friday, September 13, 2013 at Canada Creek Ranch. Our thanks, as always, to our meeting hosts for their hospitality and support of the UPRC.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carol Moncrieff Rose", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Carol Moncrieff Rose, Chair