



UPPER BLACK RIVER COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes - April 11, 2014

The spring meeting of the UBRC took place on Friday, April 11, 2014 at the Canada Creek Ranch House. The meeting began at 9:30. Those in attendance included:

Carol Rose, UBRC	Pete Thomson, UBRC Board
Tim Cwalinski, MDNR Fisheries	Phil Bandish, UBRC Board
Ross Nave, UBRC Board	Lisha Ramsdell, Huron Pines
Nico Tucker, NEMCOG	Dan Cook, property owner
Scott Whitcomb, MDNR	Tom Ames, CCR
John Walters, MITU	Brenda Archambo, Sturgeon for Tomorrow
Mike Nichols, Mont. Cons. District	Elaine Carlson (for Tom), UBRC
Dan Meyers, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council	Tim Michels, Black River Ranch
Guy Lovelace, Resident	Richard Bruot, UBRC, Riparian owner
Cathy Abraham, Mont. Cons. District	Aprille Williamson, Mont. Cons. District
Joe Jareki, UBRC/PRCA	Paul Rose, UBRC
Heather Rawlings, USFWS	

Carol Rose welcomed those in attendance and introductions were made around the table. The agenda was approved as presented.

Finances: Finances available for 2014 were inventoried. The Montmorency Conservation District (MCD) has indicated that there's approximately \$3,500 remaining from last year's funding. Heather Rawlings of USFWS indicated that the Black continues to be a priority for her unit and that funding requests to USFWS continue. Approximately \$15,000 is anticipated for 2014. Several small grants were applied for by the UBRC. Huron Pines has submitted a large SOGL grant application including the Cheboygan River Watershed rivers of the Black, Pigeon and Sturgeon, including funding for the crew.

River Restoration Crew Update: Numerous applications for the crew position were received by the Montmorency Conservation District (MCD), with one veteran crew member returning for another year. Work is to begin approximately May 8 as crew members return from school. Materials are in good supply to begin the year.

Canada Creek Ranch Permit: A new permit has been developed and CCR awaits approval from the DEQ. Getting wood to the stream in the permit area promises to be challenging which will result in somewhat slower production by the crew. Tom Ames reported that the ranch would assist with staging material at Wilson Bridge. Ames also reported that Chuck Thurston will be taking Ken Byrnes seat on the CCR Conservation Committee.

Black River Ranch: No work has been scheduled there for this summer, but there was some discussion about possibly developing a new permit for work on the ranch.

Road/Stream Crossings and Dams:

1. *Foch Lake Dam* - Cwalinski reported that funding has been approved for the repairs to the dam and that the draw-down would begin within the year
2. *Milligan Creek @ Waveland Road* - continues to be a high priority from Fisheries' perspective. Ideally, either a large structure or bridge should be installed here.
3. *Gokee Ck/Walker/Osmun Road* - was delayed last year.

4. *Saunders Dam*: The trail camera is to be reinstalled to record re-vegetation of the former impoundment area. Trapping occurred during the winter downstream from the former dam.
5. *Shingle Mill Bridge*: replacement continues to be on the wish list.
6. *Stuart Creek @ Black River Road and Sturgis Creek* also mentioned

Temp Loggers: 15 temp loggers are to be installed by May 20. The installation sites on the Main stem, East Branch and Canada Creek were reviewed.

Sand Traps: More discussion about the effectiveness of sand traps took place. It was agreed that it will be better to focus on remediating the erosion sites on Canada Creek before investing any more funding into maintaining the two traps on the public reach of the creek north of CCR.

Volunteer opportunities for the coming season: August 9, 2014 @ one of the sinkhole lakes in the PRCSF.

UBRC Partner updates:

- John Walters indicated that data collected by the Headwaters TU Americorps member on the Black and Pigeon Rivers last year would soon be available. He extended kudos to Joe Jarecki and MITU's Bryan Burroughs for their years of work on the drawdown of the Song of the Morning dam on the Pigeon finally coming to fruition. He also mentioned the increasing interest in panning for gold in Michigan rivers appearing on the conservation radar.
- Scott Whitcomb indicated that the PRCSF would have an Americorps member acting as a volunteer project coordinator for activities taking place within the unit.
- Joe Jarecki simply stated that "The dam at Song of the Morning is coming out!"
- Ross Nave reported that there appears to be some problems emerging involving poaching on Milligan Creek.
- Tim Cwalinski shared the Unit survey schedule and informed people about the upcoming Coffee and Conversation with Fisheries opportunities.
- Paul Rose introduced the UBRC Access Navigation Tool now available on the web site.
- Heather Rawlings said that USFWS is planning lots of outreach opportunities for the coming season, including a Natural Resources Camp at Camp Chickagami in PI County.
- Dan Meyers is looking for volunteers to assist with stream monitoring at 37 sites on 15 streams.
- Elaine Carlson mentioned the Vernal Pools project which has just kicked off, as well as the MCD Conservation Day scheduled for May 29.
- Pete Thomson asked about the status of the road crossing at Co. Road 638
- Brenda Archambo mentioned the Sturgeon Guard program and Sturgeon in the Classroom project.

The last order of business was scheduling the fall meeting. Friday, September 12, 2014 was selected (and subsequently changed to September 19) at Canada Creek Ranch.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Moncrieff Rose, Chair