



UPPER BLACK RIVER COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes - April 17, 2015

The spring meeting of the UBRC took place on Friday, April 15, 2015 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	Eric Johnson, CCR
Tom Carlson, UBRC	Howard French
Kevin Cronk, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council	Tim Michiels, Black River Ranch
Guy Lovelace, Resident	Richard Bruot, UBRC, Riparian owner
Joe Jareki, UBRC/PRCA	Paul Rose, UBRC
Heather Rawlings, USFWS	Chuck Thurston, CCR

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

Finances: Finances available for 2015 were inventoried. The Montmorency Conservation District (MCD) has indicated that there's approximately \$2,000 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 2015. Several small grants were applied for by the UBRC. Huron Pines' successful SOGL grant has \$40,000 budgeted for the UBRC for the next three years. CCR has indicated \$14,500 for 2015 crew contract.

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. Trevor Pickleman will serve as the crew leader this year. Because all of the crew members but one will be subject to their high school and baseball schedules, work for the full crew won't begin until at least mid-May or later. The crew will work 5 days/week because of the late start. Materials and supply needs were reviewed.

Because the crew had advanced to the portion of the current permit that falls within the walk-in region of the eastern Pigeon River Country State Forest, permission was sought (and subsequently secured) for the crew to access the area by vehicle. A special permit was secured for this purpose.

Possible Changes to DEQ LWD requirements: There is an increased need to provide "before" and "after" profiles of areas where in-stream habitat work is to be done to satisfy permit requirements. As a result, longitudinal profiles and cross section data will be collected on a section of Canada Creek later this season. Patrick Ertel of the DNR will likely lead this effort.

Canada Creek Ranch/Black River Ranch: The crew will begin their work on CCR shortly after the 4th of July and will work for 2-3 weeks there. According to Tim Michiels of BRR, all the sand traps there have been maintained. He further mentioned that BRR will be hosting several Hillsdale College students for the summer. During their stay they'll be gathering research for a paper on the history of the Black and doing "long-pro's" and cross sections on the Black. Everyone agreed that they'd be happy to assist the students at ANY time!

Road/Stream Crossings and Dams:

1. *Foch Lake Dam* - Cwalinski reported that dam replacement is scheduled for summer/fall of 2015.
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. Engineering has been done, according to Lisha.
3. *Shingle Mill Bridge*: replacement continues to be on the wish list.
4. Huron Pines reported that 75 road/stream crossings have been inventoried by Americorps members w/ about 3-4 days remaining on the data collection. Lisha indicated that the Road Commissions are making use of these data.
5. *Freeman Road/Welsh Creek S of M-68* - done by Chev. Co. Road Comm.
6. *Gohke Creek* sites are done.

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. The Brown sand trap on the East Branch is still a concern.

Public Access Sites: One of the crew details will be to inspect the various public access sites to the Black to determine needs for remediation, etc. A specific request has been made – and paid for- for the access stair near the Camp Merriment site on the East Branch.

Volunteer opportunities for the coming season: August 8, 2015 is scheduled for the Vanguard TU volunteer day on the Black. Site to be determined.

UBRC Partner updates:

- Tip of the Mit has stream and lake monitoring programs throughout the spring and summer. They also have their “Dirty Dozen” program for identifying invasive species.
- Huron Pines has an Invasives Blitz coming up for the PRC 3rd week in July. Also, announced Patagonia has given HP a grant towards the SOM dam removal project. They are within \$50K of their budget target.
- Scott Whitcomb mentioned the iNaturalist ap being promoted for monitoring sightings of flora and fauna. Pete Datema is the Americorps members working at the PRC this year.
- Cwalinski updated the group on changes in Fisheries orders and shared his unit's work plan for the coming summer.
- Richard Bruot reported that trapping was tough last winter due to ice banks.
- Joe Jarecki said that the SOM dam removal is really coming along. He also announced that the former Manager's residence at PRC headquarters is to be turned into a historical interpretive center for the public to enjoy.
- Howard French mentioned that there are times when one of the property owners on the East Branch near Shinglemill Bridge takes it upon himself to set up posts within the road r-o-w to deter people from parking there to fish. It was agreed that a letter would be written to the Mont. Co. Road Commission to alert them to this.
- Phil Bandish reported that there's been a timber cut near the Alexander Hole on Milligan Creek.
- Paul Rose talked about the long term funding plan for the UBRC. Ideally, the goal would be to raise sufficient funds to create an endowment-type “nest egg.” This would allow the work of the crew to continue using the earnings from the fund. He also mentioned legislation being discussed

at the state level which is advocating for ALL state-owned land to be open for access by vehicles and ORV's.

- Heather announced that 10 schools are participating in the Vernal Pool monitoring project.

The last order of business was scheduling the fall meeting. Friday, September 11, 2015 was selected at Canada Creek Ranch. Thank you's were extended to our hosts at CCR.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Moncrieff Rose, Chair