



**AGENDA**  
**Upper Black River Council**  
**September 16, 2011**  
**Canada Creek Ranch, 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

A meeting of the UBRC took place on Friday, September 16, 2011 at Canada Creek Ranch. Carol Rose, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. She welcomed everyone and had each person introduce him/herself. Those in attendance included:

Carol Rose, MC <sup>3</sup>	Lisha Ramsdell, Huron Pines
Paul Rose, MC <sup>3</sup>	Andrea Ania, USFWS
Joseph Gerbyshak, USFWS	Nico Tucker, NEMCOG
Richard Bruot, landowner/UBRC board	Phil Bandish, landowner/UBRC board
Pete Thomson, landowner/UBRC board	Joe Jarecki, MDNR retired/UBRC board
Dave Smethurst, Headwaters TU	Dave Borgeson, MDNR Fisheries
Tony Dunaske, Guide, educator	Tom Carlson, MDNR retired, UBRC board
Howard French, recreational fisherman	Tom Ames, Canada Creek Ranch
Gloria Woudenberg, Montmorency Conservation District	

The agenda was approved as presented. The minutes from the April 2011 meeting were approved as presented and accepted into the official record.

**Funding and Fund-raising Updates**

***Montmorency Conservation District - Gloria Woudenberg:*** Gloria reported that expenses for the river crew restoration activities were just under \$42,000 for 2011. USFWS, Huron Pines' Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Grant, Montmorency Conservation District, UBRC, donations and various small grants are in place and/or anticipated for 2012 crew funding.

**2011 River Restoration Crew wrap-up/plans for 2012**

Nico Tucker, Crew Supervisor reported on the crew's LWD production for 2011.

- On the Black River permit (public reaches, expires May 2015), 74 LWD structures were installed and/or restored, with about 50 LWD's remaining on the permit. Two inactive beaver dams were "deconstructed" on the East Branch, along with others throughout the watershed. An access site landing on the East Branch was also repaired. Guide Tony Dunaske commented on what a significant positive impact the 2011 work has had on the extended season stretch of the Black.

- On the Black River Ranch permit (expires May 2015), 34 new structures were installed with approximately 40 remaining on the permit. Production in 2011 wasn't quite as high here as experienced in 2010 when the LWD logs and other structural components had been staged for them over the winter by BRR staff. At least 29 additional sites are in areas identified as having habitat suitable for our tiny little friends, the beetles (Hungerfords Crawling Water Beetles).

- On the Canada Creek Ranch permit (expires December 2013), 44 LWD structures (15 new, 29 old ones restored), along with the removal of a foot bridge.

Discussion took place regarding the next permit application for the Black. A general consensus was reached to submit a "gap" permit on the stretch of the Black between Town Corner Stairs and "the chimney" site at Blue Lakes.

Nothing definitive was decided for the crew make-up for 2012. At most, three of the 2011 members will be available for 2012.

### **Road/Stream Crossing Projects**

**Roth Road/Van Hellon Creek - Lisha Ramsdell** reported that this project is substantially complete, with seal coating remaining by the Montmorency County Road Commission by the end of the month. Once completed, the estimated 9.07 tons of annual sediment load at this site should be reduced by 80%. She said that more beetles were found at the site *after* the new culvert was installed than had been found before. Total cost came in at \$78,000±, with \$32,000 supplied by the Montmorency County Road Commission in labor and equipment, \$42,000 from USFWS and the balance of \$5,080.96 from the Upper Black River Council.

**Stewart Creek/Blue Lake Road - Lisha Ramsdell** said this project is tentatively planned for 2012. She's working with an engineer and the Montmorency County Road Commission on the planning details. She reminded us that this, too, is a beetle site.

**Roth Road/Co. Rd. 622 - Lisha Ramsdell** reported that this project should be done within the coming month.

**Red Bridge Crossing** - Sediment load at this unofficial Black River access site near Black Lake continues to be a concern. Ownership (Cheboygan Co. Road Commission, State of Michigan, ??) still needs to be resolved.

**Other sites:** Shingle Mill Bridge is still on the wish list, but needs buy-in by adjacent landowners at this East Branch location. The crossing at Co. Rd. 638 in Presque Isle County also needs some attention, per Pete Thomson.

### **Volunteer Opportunities**

Lisha reported that two successful volunteer river events took place this summer, on the Rifle and the Pigeon. Both were very well received by enthusiastic volunteers.

Carol Rose reported that the 2011 TU/Volunteer Day was also a great success. Five large structures were installed by the crew and 20± volunteers at the site on Chandler Dam Road, just west of the Town Corner Stairs State Forest Campground. Nico reported that additional structures (as allowed by the permit) were installed at the site by the crew the following week. Some discussion ensued regarding the 2012 volunteer day site. Tentatively, a stretch near the Bruot parcel on the Black was chosen where materials could be staged in anticipation of the work day. This will help ensure that the volunteers will be able to keep the momentum going throughout the day.

### **Temp logger collection**

The time has come to pull the loggers. Phil Bandish reported that his had already been turned in to Tim, as have Joe Jarecki's. The remaining five will be pulled by Paul and Carol Rose.

### **Other**

- UBRC "social media" - Carol Rose reported that the web site is now current and that the UBRC also has a Facebook page. She mentioned that expanding the maps available on the web site was a goal. These maps would be in higher resolution for downloading and/or printing by visitors to the site. Maps of the various access sites, project sites, etc., Google Earth images with geographic information would also be great.

- Dave Borgeson reported in on Milligan Creek for Tim Cwalinski. Tim and Phil Bandish and a DNR technician did the annual shocking of the 4,304 foot Milligan Creek Station in August. Data have been collected from this station since 2006 and the 2011 numbers were quite remarkable. Total number of trout captured during the session (892) ranged in length from 1" to 16," with 54 that were 10" or greater. This, compared to 5 (of the 21 captured) in the same size range in 2006. The reduced beaver activity on the Milligan was cited as a contributing factor to the increased number and size of the brook trout since 2006.

It was also mentioned that sturgeon were seen in Milligan Creek this year and that poaching is an issue again in spots on the creek. Some discussion took place about possible remedies to provide cover (small woody debris structures, overhead vegetation, etc.).

- Tom Carlson and Dave Borgeson weighed in on the impact of reduced aspen harvest taking place near rivers contributing to the reduction of the beaver population. Carlson mentioned that this reduced beaver activity also affects other species such as wood ducks.

- Paul Rose brought up a proposed change in the daily creel limit (from 5 to 10/day) for brook trout being put forth by a UP group. Something to keep on the resource radar.

- Sand traps were discussed again. Borgeson indicated that a review of the effectiveness and quality of sand traps is underway. Due to significantly reduced resources, the Department is no longer in a position to maintain sand traps. He said that if there's a "time bomb" at a sand trap, resources (by someone else) should ideally be directed to that. An inventory and status of the traps within the UBRC watershed was recommended.

- It was noted that the foot bridge at the former Slingerland place, now owned by the people of the State of Michigan, has been removed. No one knew who removed it, as it wasn't the State.

#### **Partner updates/Issues**

USFWS - Andrea brought a few copies of the agency's publication, EDDIES, which included a fine article about Bud Slingerland and the UBRC entitled "Old Man and the River." Additional copies will become available in the coming months.

Headwaters TU - Dave Smethurst passed along the praises of the members of Beaver Dam Club, where work on the river has recently been done by the crew. He further mentioned TU National's wild brook trout initiative.

Huron Pines - Lisha mentioned projects on the Pigeon and Sturgeon which are forthcoming.

Sturgeon Hatchery - Borgeson reported that 3,000 fingerlings were successfully raised this year.

**Election of UBRC Chair** - Carol Rose was re-elected as UBRC chair.

**Schedule spring 2012 meeting** - April 6, 2012 was tentatively scheduled for the next full meeting of the Council, location to be determined.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Moncrieff Rose