



UPPER BLACK RIVER COUNCIL Meeting Minutes - April 12, 2022

The spring meeting of the UBRC took place on Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at Canada Creek Ranch. The meeting began at 9:30 a.m.. Twenty-three individuals were present, including the following

Paul Rose, Interim Chair, UBRC
Tim Cwalinski, MDNR
Carol Rose, UBRC
Brian Rogers, CCR
Dan Blanton, CCR, trapper
Nancy Thurston, CCR
Roger Bergstaat, CCR
Conservation Officer Fox
Pat Brizewski, CCR
Jim Geister
Tom Carlson, UBRC
Joe Jarecki, UBRC

Tony Dunaske, Gaylord Fishing Club
Richard Bruot, UBRC
Josh Leisen, Huron Pines
Chuck Thurston, CCR
Ken Reed, Contractor
Kim Bandish, UBRC
Brian Rogers, CCR
Mark Monroe, PRCSE Unit Manager
Kim Bruzewski, CCR
Dr. Greg Corace
Tom Ames, CCR

Interim Chair Paul Rose welcomed everyone and asked those participating to introduce themselves to the rest of the group. He spoke about a “new look” to continue the UBRC, looking for a plan to sustain the UBRC going forward. Mr. Rose stated that there is ample funding for the 2022 season.

2021 Work Season report:

Beaver activity: The confluence of Tubbs Creek and the Main Branch Black and the Milligan Creek areas continue to be inviting habitat for beavers.

Temperature Loggers: All temp loggers have been turned in to Tim Cwalinski who reported on historic temperature data through the 2020 season. Tim said that the temp data for the Black River is the biggest temp data set in Michigan. A new supply of temp loggers (~\$130 each) would be ideal going forward, as some of the units are aging out. Our thanks to those who install and remove the temp loggers throughout the system each year.

Road Stream Crossings (RSX): Josh Leisen of Huron Pines gave updates on recent/current RSX projects. The RSX on 622 @ the East Branch Black, a/k/a Shingle Mill Bridge was completed in late 2020 and is doing well. The “Tubes” site on the Pigeon River was nearing completion. Four additional sites are on the schedule for Black River RSX locations at Sparr, Wilkenson and Beck Roads and Johnson’s Crossing involving a tributary of the Black. The coffer dam @ Co. Rd. 622 at Muskellunge Lake was also briefly discussed, verifying that there is a recorded legal lake level established, making revisions to the existing coffer dam more complicated.

With the absence of representatives from USFWS and Tip of the Mitt, written reports were shared.

Partner updates:

- Canada Creek Ranch reported that beaver activity continues to be an issue in various locations along Canada Creek. Trappers and nuisance permits have been secured. Montague Dam is set too low, and has some erosion issues, as does the creek access site @ Wilson Bridge along the Doty Trail.
- Tim Cwalinski, MDNR reported that Black River Ranch has new managers with the retirement of Tim and Dorothy Michiels.
- Chuck Thurston of CCR said that erosion at the Doty Landing is sending sand on down to the sand trap in place.
- Tony Dunaske of Gaylord Fishing Club stated that the club is very happy with the work done along their frontage on the Main Branch Black. Kudos to Ken and the crew.
- Tim Cwalinski reported that the Slingerland sand trap on the East Branch is doing its job and doesn't currently need maintenance. The trap in the Tin Shanty Bridge reach is a challenge to maintain when needed, due to the logistics of getting the equipment in place. A Fisheries survey of the Gotschalk Reach @ Tubbs Creek revealed very positive numbers of fish in the system. Data from this survey location goes back to 1984! He also mentioned that Walled Lake, now part of the Pigeon River Country State Forest, has special fishing regulations (catch and release only) and will have drive-in access for non-motorized boats.
- Josh Leisen, Huron Pines, is working with USFWS on the Sparr Road RSX as well as providing an assist to Tip of the Mitt with watershed mapping.
- Gary Isaman, Headwaters TU reported that they will be continuing with access site surveillance and renovations, including at Clark Bridge. The chapter purchased 7 new temp loggers in 2020 and offered to replace bad ones when required. They are also planning to have a spring banquet in 2022.
- Dan Blanton of CCR offered up his trapping services.
- Ken Reed, contractor, looks forward to returning to the Black River in 2022 to continue work on the current permit. He was described by those in the room as a "Miracle Worker!"

There being no further business to come before the UBRC, the meeting came to a timely close at 10:45 a.m. Our thanks go out to CCR for hosting us at their beautiful Ranch House!

The next meeting of the UBRC in the in the Spring of 2022 and will be determined via a Doodle poll or alternate system.

Respectfully submitted,

CMR

Carol Moncrieff Rose
Upper Black River Council