

Upper Black River Watershed Restoration Committee
Minutes from the Meeting of April 14, 2006

Attendance: Bud Slingerland, Valerie Olinik Damstra (Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council), John Walters (Headwaters Chapter TU), Tim Cwalinski (MDNR-Fisheries), Paul Rose (Montmorency Conservation Club), Heather Rawlings (USFWS), Mike Moreau (Montmorency Conservation District), Brenda Archambo (Sturgeon For Tomorrow), Paul Baird, Mark Kinney, Neal Godby (MDNR-Fisheries)

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Bud Slingerland.

WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

FINANCIAL REPORT

Approximately \$35,000 is available. Financial report was accepted.

2006 ACTIVITY UPDATES

Temperature Loggers: Ten loggers will be placed in the Black River Watershed again this year. They will be placed at the same locations as last year: 2 in the E Br Black, 3 in the Black River mainstem, 2 in Oxbow Creek, and 1 in each of McMasters Creek, Little McMasters Creek, Milligan Creek.

Trappers: Paul Baird and Mark Kinney reported that approximately 225 beaver were trapped in the Black River watershed. One trapper took 139 beaver this spring in the Black system. They reported that muskrat numbers are up, otter are in pockets with abundance spotty, and mink numbers are good.

A DNR Wildlife Division proposal to end the spring trapping season was discussed. **Bud will draft a letter on behalf of the Upper Black River Watershed Restoration Committee to DNR Wildlife Division, NRC, and DNR Director about the beaver season proposal, recommending that the season not be changed.**

Milligan Creek. Tim Cwalinski went on a flight over the Milligan locating major beaver dam problems. He indicated there were 6 very large dams, as well as 30 smaller dams. DNR foresters will be helping to remove the very large dams with dynamite this summer. Trout Unlimited has agreed to pay for the explosives.

Work Crews. Two work crews will be hired this summer to install current log deflectors and remove beaver dams (one crew in Canada Creek Ranch, one crew in other sections of the Black River watershed). Current log deflectors and whole tree cover will be done in the following rivers: East Branch Black, Black River mainstem, Canada Creek, and Milligan Creek. Crews will also work with Headwaters TU to update an inventory of beaver dams in the watershed and remove them. **There will be a training session for**

the work crews on May 15 to go over safety issues, public relations, best management practices, etc.

Fisheries Division. A tentative field schedule was distributed. Surveys scheduled within the Black River watershed this year include Bear Den Lake, Osmun Lake, Black River (Main River Bridge), and Black River (McKinnons Bend), as well as assisting MSU with sturgeon research in the spring and summer.

Sturgeon for Tomorrow. Brenda Archambo discussed a proposed project downstream of Kleber Dam to address critical erosion sites near known sturgeon spawning areas. Funding is still being sought to fully address the erosion, but in the interim, volunteers will be planting some trees. John Walters suggested using beach grass for stabilization, as was used on a sandy bank on the Two-Hearted River. Brenda also said the sturgeon hatchery will again be in operation at the mouth of the river this year, but it may be moved to the east side of Kleber Dam after October.

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

This was tabled, to be discussed at the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING

September 22, 2006, 9:30 a.m., at Canada Creek Ranch.