

Upper Black River Watershed Restoration Committee

Minutes from the Meeting of April 4, 2008

ATTENDANCE

Carol Rose (UBRWRC Chairman), Valerie Olinik-Damstra (Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council), Lisha Ramsdell (Huron Pines), Tim Cwalinski (MDNR Fish Div.), Rick Kropf (PRCA), Eric Nelson (Huron Pines), Erin Riopelle (HeadWaters Land Conservancy), Bob Hook (Guest), Nico Tucker (NEMCOG), Donna Hardies (Montmorency CD), Tom Williams (MCD), Tom Carlson (Mont. Co. Cons. Club), Richard Bruot (Property Owner), Scott Rasmusson (DEQ/LWMD), Roxanne Merrick (DEQ/LWMD), Tim Michaels (Black River Ranch), Andrea Ania (USFWS), Heather Rawlings (USFWS), Ken Byrne (Canada Creek Ranch), Paul Rose (Montmorency Co. Cons. Club), Phil Bandish (Property owner), Ross Nave (Property owner)

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Carol Rose

WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

FINANCIAL REPORT

Donna Hardies presented a Budget Worksheet for the Black River work. Total funding was indicated to be \$36,000 with total expenses (personnel, supplies, miscellaneous) at \$24,046. A similar budget was presented for the Canada Creek Ranch work showing \$15,000 in funding (all from CCR) and expenses at \$11,955.

TU HOME RIVERS

There will be a site visit this summer on the Black and Sturgeon Rivers. If chosen, a TU staff person will be on-site for approximately 3 years as well as provide national recognition to the watershed. Another possible program would be *Bring Back the Natives* for brook trout.

STREAM CREW

Four crew members will be hired this year in addition to the crew supervisor. Phone interviews have been conducted and 2 have confirmed. According to Donna, she's waiting to hear from one potential member and will be looking for one more. There was a suggestion of help from the 46th District Non-violent Offenders work program (\$15/day with supervisor).

Work Plan: 2 crews- Thunder Bay and Canada Creek Ranch; Black River dam removal

VOLUNTEER WORK DAYS

Black River: As part of TU grant requirements, would like to set up work days for TU members, Aug. 1 & 2 were set as tentative dates. The Vanguard TU chapter is planning on coming up for the event.

Myers Creek: Huron Pines suggests this site is not good for volunteers. DEQ abatement issue-on file since 2002, waiting for property owner to come through with funds.

Upper Black Sturgeon Site: Have 5% of funds and will be starting work this summer; May 3 and May 10th- working with Sturgeon Guards to put in terraces and stabilization at the toe; rope swing site- needs more engineering, deep gully to stabilize and address access issue

BEAVER DAM PROJECT

There are old beaver dams to be removed by the river crew upstream of Tyrolean Hills if time permits. Milligan creek exploration- looking for more dams and may use explosives in this area; Phil Brandish- keeping track of bank cuts; There was some discussion regarding the need for setbacks and buffer areas for DNR Forestry timber cuts along the river.

Motion by Paul Rose to use group funds (\$500) to hire professional trapper to trap with nuisance extended season permits, targeting trapping in Milligan Creek.

Seconded by Phil Bandish.

Voted Unanimous.

CULVERT & BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

Hodges Creek- Huron Pines hopes to finish this year. Mont. Co. Road Comm. donated equipment and time.

Shingle Mill Bridge- needs replacement and will take a lot of time and money. This is one of the worst large RSX and \$300,000 is estimated for replacement work. HP could maybe do the preliminary surveys to get better cost estimate and what best Best Management Practices are.

At minimum, approaches need work to reduce runoff

Chandler Dam- not approved under Fish Passage for this year, but Heather/Andrea will resubmit for next year; Heather will also submit for partners funding- keep on agenda to keep updated

MISC. ACTIVITIES

How can we better involve volunteers? Getting more people involved and aware of the watershed was discussed. This can be done via such approaches as a web site and Power point presentation.

UBRWRC website

Things to include on website: meeting info, minutes, fundraising, volunteer opportunities Discussion took place regarding cost, maintenance, etc. Erin Riopelle offered to do some preliminary research.

Watershed presentation

Tim and Paul have developed one from "tour" this past winter. Still needs polishing.

Volunteer Stream Monitoring program

Start with MC3 for volunteers, reach out to families through website, to expand to kids later; Tim/Heather will help located sites on Upper Black for future monitoring.

Black River Ranch Survey

HP give proposal for the study; first do tour with Tim for preliminary assessment; Flint family donating money for environmental projects with in ranch

OTHER UPDATES

Carbon dioxide pumping in watershed- pumping pressurized carbon dioxide underground to headwaters of Saunders Creek- Sparr and Gingel Rd; trapping carbon dioxide in the ground rather than in air

Charlton Site- Lost Cabin Rd- BTEX plume; spread 300 ft from site towards Black River Swamp; contained back to area of the site; removed contaminated soil and using bioremediation

Regulation change- Tin Shanty to Town Corner, starting this month, don't use bait; flies and artificial only

TRIBAL REPRESENTATIVES

Discussion took place regarding inviting tribal representatives to the partnership. Follow-up will take place through the appropriate partners.

NRCS-WHIP FUNDING

Small sites for fish passage; get a list of sites to Lisha; HP can apply on group's behalf

*Donna can take minutes at next meeting if there is not a staff person from Tip of the Mitt available.

*Next Meeting: September 5th, 9:30-12:00

Location TBD