

Upper Black River Watershed Restoration Committee
Minutes from the Meeting of September 24, 2004

Attendance: Ann Baughman, Lisha Ramsdell, Ken Byrne, Robert Gerrie, Tim Cwalinski, Mike Moreau, Brenda Archambo, Bud Slingerland, Richard Kropf, Neal Godby (minutes)

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Bud Slingerland.

WELCOME / INTRODUCTIONS

MINUTES

Motion to accept the March 19, 2004 meeting minutes was made by Neal Godby; Ann Baughman seconded the motion.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Cheboygan Conservation District may not be able to hold our accounts any longer as a sponsor, and discussion ensued about who should hold the Committee's accounts. There was general approval for the accounts to be moved to Huron Pines RC&D. Lisha agreed to pursue this, but indicated that this would need approval from the RC&D Board, as well as the Executive Director. A new partnership agreement would also need to be drafted.

Ken and Ann agreed to meet with Mike to discuss specifics about the transfer of accounts and equipment. Ken agreed to go to the Conservation District to advocate for the committee. Two issues that need resolution are funds and equipment. Mike indicated that he had notified the Conservation District regarding equipment, but had not heard anything back.

DNR FISHERIES

Tim distributed a list (attached) of MDNR Northern Lake Huron Management Activities for 2004, and briefly discussed stream and lake surveys, temperature monitoring, and activities planned for 2005.

US FISH & WILDLIFE

Heather Enterline sent in a report (attached) on road/stream crossings, stream work, and future work planned for the USFWS.

BEAVER CONTROL

Bud and Mike indicated that beaver numbers are decreasing. Mike's crew removed less than 30 beaver dams this spring/summer, including one out in the Blue Lakes area that has already been rebuilt.

STREAMBANK EROSION / IN-STREAM STRUCTURES

Streambank erosion on Canada Creek downstream of Co. Rd. 622 was discussed. Several people cautioned that bank stabilization efforts would only shift the problem downstream or across the river; the best solution is to replace the culvert. The committee agreed to pursue funding to improve the road/stream crossing. Fish passage is also an issue at this crossing.

Bob Gerrie mentioned several recent bank collapses, one of which has already been fixed.

Brenda Archambo mentioned some streambank erosion near sturgeon spawning sites, and summarized efforts to obtain funding for erosion control measures. Brenda brought design plans for erosion control at these sites, and asked whether the group could assist. Cost for the whole project is estimated to be \$300,000. Various funding sources were discussed, including the Great Lakes Commission, the Natural Resources Trust Fund, MDNR's Inland Fisheries Grants, and the Great Lakes Commission.

In-stream structures: Mike reported that his crew put in over 200 instream structures (trees) this summer, including 120 in Canada Creek. Ken said that the Ranch would like to fund some in-stream work next year.

ROAD/STREAM CROSSINGS

The Co. Rd. 622 / Canada Creek crossing was discussed (see above). Heather Enterline's report (attached) identifies crossings that will be completed this year or next (Tomahawk Hwy at Tomahawk Cr, Gingell Rd at Saunders Cr, and Knight Road at Gillis Cr.), and suggested some crossings for future work. Black River Road at Hodge Creek and Blue Lakes Road at Stewart Creek were also suggested for inclusion on the list.

The concern was raised about bear hunters grading the roads. Tim agreed to ask the road commission if this was legal.

SAND TRAPS

The two DNR sand traps on Canada Creek will be cleaned this year.

OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

Covered during the above agenda items.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held Friday, March 25, 9:30 a.m., at the Canada Creek Ranch.

ADJOURN.