

Upper Black River Watershed Restoration Committee
Friday, September 5, 2008
Canada Creek Ranch Club House
9:30 a.m
Minutes

Attendance: Carol Rose (UBRWRC Chairman), Jennifer Gelb (Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council), Lisha Ramsdell (Huron Pines), Tim Cwalinski (MDNR Fish Div.), Erin Riopelle (HeadWaters Land Conservancy), Nico Tucker (NEMCOG), Donna Hardies (Montmorency CD), Tim Michiels (Black River Ranch), Heather Rawlings (USFWS), Ken Byrne (Canada Creek Ranch), Paul Rose (Montmorency Co. Cons. Club), Jeff Kala (Property owner), Bud Slingerlend (UBRWRC/Property owner), Tony Dunaske (Fishing Guide/Property Owner), Hank Jackoviak (Property Owner), John Walters (Headwaters TU Chapter)

Meeting called to order:
Chairman Carol Rose called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

Welcome/Introductions:
Chairman Rose, in the interest of time, suggested that members introduce themselves during the meeting rather than formal introductions at the meeting onset.

Agenda: The agenda was presented to the committee for review, following review John Walters moved to accept the agenda as presented, seconded by Paul Rose, with no discussion the motion passed with all in favor.

Minutes: The minutes from the April 4, 2008 meeting were reviewed and accepted as presented with all in favor.

Financial Report:

Donna Hardies presented a financial statement for the Black River and Canada Creek Ranch work activities dated August 31, 2008.

Black River: Revenue received to date: \$17,250.00, Expenditures: \$14,741.18, one outstanding invoice for duckbills in the amount of \$1,500.00. The Conservation District still has to invoice the Paul Young TU Chapter \$1,000 for work activities and \$15,000 to the USFWS, this money will be invoiced and be available for work activities for the 2009 work season.

Canada Creek Ranch: Revenue received to date: \$19,656.00, Expenditures: \$14,796.54, one outstanding invoice for \$1,500.00 for 250 duckbill anchors.

At the time of the report no accounting/invoicing had been done for district administrative costs or perpetual care items for equipment and tools.

Following review of the financial reports, the reports were accepted in the committee's official records.

Grant Updates: Future Funding

Bud Slingerlend opened discussion about the availability or potential for implementation funding under the 319 program. Lisha Ramsdell spoke on this issue noting that 319 implementation funding does not appear to be a viable option due to the State's ranking system of applying implementation monies to water systems dealing with higher degrees of pollutants and population issues. General

opinion is that the group will be looking to other funding sources to implement its goals and deliverables.

Embrace-A-Stream: TU National-John Walters reported that the local Headwaters Chapter will be receiving a \$2,000 grant for the placement of large woody debris in the river system. Once this wire transfer has been completed John will be forwarding the money to the Black River Committee.

USFWS: Heather Rawlings reported that she will be applying for \$10,000- \$15,000 in next year's budget for the same type of work activities; placement of large woody debris

Canada Creek Ranch: Ken Bryne indicated that the ranch is proposing funding in the \$10,000-\$15,000 range for work activities for next year also.

2008 Work Crew Report:

Donna Hardies presented a power point presentation highlighting some of the summer work activities completed this season.

- 5 member work crew/with supervisor and 1 work activities coordinator
- CCR-163 structures installed or repaired
- Black River-51 structures installed or repaired
- Beaver Dam removals-45 dams removed or altered

The restoration committee also contracted with a local trapper to concentrate on depopulation efforts as recommended by local resource officials and area landowners.

Following the report the general consensus from all members involved with this season's activities is one of overall success. The group congratulated Nico Tucker and the work crew on a very productive, well structured work season with the reporting and documentation very detailed and informational.

The committee also complimented and thanked Paul Rose, Tim Cwalinski, Roxanne Merck and Nico Tucker for all of their 11th hour scrambling in procuring the Black River Restoration permit. These individuals worked diligently to ensure that the permit was secured before the end of the work season, gathering and preparing documentation to ensure the entire season was not lost. Kudos to all involved with this effort.

2009 Plans for Crew:

Permits:

Black River: This year's permit is good for 5 years, but the crew has completed 5 of the 25 permitted sites, leaving 20 sites for next year (which include approximately 7 or 8 structures per site). Nico Tucker and Tim Cwalinski will begin working on defining future sites for the next permit application, because if the crew is as successful next year we will be out of permitted sites at next year's conclusion.

CCR: The permit is in place and Ken Bryne is working on defining locations and securing funding for next summer's work.

Black River Ranch: Tim Michiels reported that the Black River Ranch has their permit in place and a planning meeting is scheduled with Huron Pines early next week to begin outlining and defining work activities for the summer of 2009.

Funding:

CCR: The ranch is planning to continue its restoration and habitat efforts and is finalizing its funding commitments, but is estimating funding levels similar to years.

Black River:

Private donations, USFWS, local TU chapters and carrying over from this year's activities are all expected again for next year with an approximate budget of \$30,000 plus for next summer's work season.

Road/Stream Crossing Updates:

Black River Road/Hodges Creek road crossing-Lisha Ramsdell updated the group on the progress of the crossing, noting that this is a cooperative effort between Huron Pines, Montmorency County Road Commission, and USFWS. To date, the surveying on the site has been completed, and they are now waiting on draft plans from the engineer by the end of the month. The road commission will be providing the labor for the site's restoration. At this point Huron Pines is still looking for additional funding to get the site completed; her estimates for additional funding are approximately \$6,000. This money could be pledged and Huron Pines could invoice the exact amount upon completion of the site.

Paul Rose moved that the Black River Restoration Committee allocate an amount not to exceed \$6,000 to the Hodges Creek Road/Stream Crossing Project, Tim Cwalinski seconded the motion. Discussion followed that this amount is pledged and Lisha will invoice the committee with the balance needed to complete the site's funding. Following discussion the group approved the motion with all in favor.

Shingle Mill Bridge-No new activity on this site, with discussion focusing on the size and amount of money needed for this site, that this will not be in the forefront until some substantial funding channels are secured.

Chandler Bridge-No new activity

Oxbow Creek Road Crossing: All materials are on site and the work is expected to be completed next week on this site.

Montague-CCR: This site will be pursued next year; CCR association is currently working on the development of a cooperative work agreement. More information will be provided at the next meeting.

Chandler Dam: Jennifer Gelb updated the committee that Tippi of the Mitt has received notification that they have been awarded a DNR Inland Fisheries grant in the amount of \$29,996 for this site; the total budget estimate is \$59,996.00. Tippi of the Mitt will also be applying for Fish Passage funding through the USFWS. The group discussed utilizing the summer work crew for hand and approach work on the site to be used as a match for their funding dollars. John Walters discussed looking into TU National monies for available dollars for dam removals. Tim Cwalinski discussed the site noting that there is a deteriorating cabin on site and with the dam removal this could act as a catalyst to getting the entire site cleaned up. Jennifer noted that a site visit with a contractor will happen in the near future and anyone interested in attending is welcome, Heather Rawlings noted that she would like to be involved with that site visit.

Roth Road: Tentatively on schedule for next year, the road commission is suggesting that the current one lane bridge be replaced with a small culvert. Some members have concerns about this site due to the proximity of a beaver dam near by and the silting of the area behind. More updates will be provided at the next meeting.

Other: Discussion by the committee on additional sites to be looking at and the need or the perceived need to rank sites or re-evaluate the prior site rankings. The following sites were addressed by the committee as concerns and sites that should be evaluated and ranked: Stewart's Creek, Little MacMasters, Little MacMaster/Clark Bridge, Shingle Mill Bridge, and Brady Rd on Milligan. Heather Rawlings would like to re-evaluate and utilize Tim Cwalinski's data and other information to come up with an updated top 10 priority list.

Heather also noted that anyone interested in seeking funding under the Fish Passage program needs to contact Andrea as soon as possible as those applications are due by October 20, 2008, and funding requests under the Partners for Fish and Wildlife program are due in by November 1, 2008.

The group also discussed the Hungerford's Crawling Water Beetle with focus on whether the river habitat improvements are actually enhancing the habitat for the beetles. Property owner, Jeff Kula, still has contacts at LSSU with their research department and the suggestion was made about research potential in collecting data on population studies, beetle distribution, etc. Jeff and Tim Cwalinski will look into this type of study as a potential research project.

Miscellaneous Items:

Temperature Loggers-the loggers need to be removed and given to Tim so he can upload the data, this removal should take place in late September/early October. Paul Rose will contact Bob Hook about logger removals this fall. It was also noted that anyone interested in participating in the logger placement should contact Paul Rose. Tony Dunaske indicated an interest in assisting with the logger placement next spring.

Galen Brown Sand Trap-Bud has the key for the property, this site is in need of being dug, but the status of the permit is in question as well as who the permit was issued to. It is estimated to be 100' foot site, with the deepest depth 10' at the center. Discussion on how much to get the spoils off site, cost for removal, equipment needed, etc. Paul Rose and Tim Cwalinski will look into this site to gather all the necessary information.

Web Site-The committee is still interested in pursuing a web site, but until more action is taken on the development of such a site Lisha Ramsdell noted that Huron Pines could put a Black River page on its site and the financials, power point presentation and other information could be posted there. The information needs to be given to Lisha and she will work to get that information posted on there site.

Other-E-mail list vs. snail mail for meeting announcements, etc.-Carol Rose noted that it is the goal of the committee to try and get all correspondence with members on e-mail, but until that point any mailings that need to be done for committee notification can either be forwarded to the Montmorency Conservation District or to Tim Cwalinski at the DNR.

Partner Updates:

Bud Slingerland: Bud will be moving out of the area and he wanted to thank the committee members for all the years of hard work and dedication to this unique resource. He also thanked Carol Rose for

taking over the chairmanship of the committee, knowing that the organization is in very capable hands and looks forward to hearing about all of the committee's accomplishments.

Carol Rose also noted that at the July meeting of the Montmorency County Conservation Club, the club's conservationist of the year awarded has now been changed to the Bud Slingerlend Conservation Award in Bud's honor for all of his dedication to the club and our counties resources.

Bud Slingerlend's new address:

5674 Lake Pleasant Rd

North Branch, MI 48461

810-688-4347

Huron Pines RC &D:

September 17, 2008 Huron Pines will be hosting a Dam Summit with Bryan Burrows the featured speaker; there is no cost for the event, anyone interested only needs to contact Huron Pines to RSVP Pigeon River Habitat Initiative- Huron Pines has secured additional funding to enhance this program where staff meets with landowners to assist with land improvement for wildlife. This area encompasses the property that surrounds the Pigeon River Country State Forest.

Myers Creek Restoration-This project is on hold until the courts can secure funding from the landowner for site restoration. All the engineering is in place, but on a standstill until the funding is secure.

Black River/Sturgeon Sites-Cheboygan County-3 sites, done with volunteer labor, for more information see the Huron Pines web site.

Tony Dunaske-Fly Fishing Guide

Very informative meeting and noted that he is interested in assisting with logger placements next spring.

Phil Bandish-Property Owner

Very impressed with the crew's work ethic and stamina, Phil assisted with beaver dam removals and is very pleased with crew's accomplishment and also the beaver control in his area.

Tipp of the Mitt:

Chandler Dam high priority

Valerie is doing well with her new daughter, Violet, and hopes to return to work sometime in October.

Bud Slingerlend suggested that the Black River Committee send Valerie and her husband a note of congratulations on the addition to their family.

NEMCOG:

No new activity to report.

The group thanked Nico Tucker once again for all of this work summer on the project while also building a new home and welcoming a new son into his family.

Hank Jankoviak:

Discussed the Myers Creek project in more detail noting that beyond the original owner the son of the property owner is also becoming involved in the project, but estimated total cost for reclamation as approximately \$100,000.

Black River Ranch: Tim Michiels-Manager

Black River Ranch will be meeting with Huron Pines on Sept. 8, 2008 to begin planning and prioritizing sites on the sites for restoration activities. They have a 5 year permit which will include restoration, structure placement and sand trap clean-outs.

DNR Fisheries-Tim Cwalinski

Tim handed out a summary of completed work activities done by the NDHMU/Grayling crews. He also handed out the field studies completed on the Milligan Creek and Rattlesnake Creek.

John Walters, Headwaters TU Chapter:

John gave a thorough accounting of the events following the revelation that the dam at Song of the Morning Ranch had been compromised in late July, releasing untold quantities of silt and debris into the Pigeon River. Walters and his wife, Susan, were among the first citizens to become aware of the event. Walters said that Headwaters TU has followed up with the DNR, DEQ, and elected officials on the local, state and national level in an effort to see that this never happens again.

New Projects 2009:

Heather Rawlings will be re-prioritizing road stream crossings for committee review
Rattlesnake Creek will continue with another year of sampling

Discussion about keeping J-5 informed about the activities on Rattlesnake Creek-Tim Cwalinski will get the contact information and will gladly call and discuss the proposed activities and accomplishments with the interested parties.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Upper Black River Restoration Committee will be held on December 5, 2008 at the Black River Ranch.

It was noted that if there are not enough agenda items to hold the meeting it could be canceled and re-scheduled by call of the committee chairman.

With no further business to address the meeting was adjourned by call of the chairman at noon.

Submitted by,

Donna Hardies