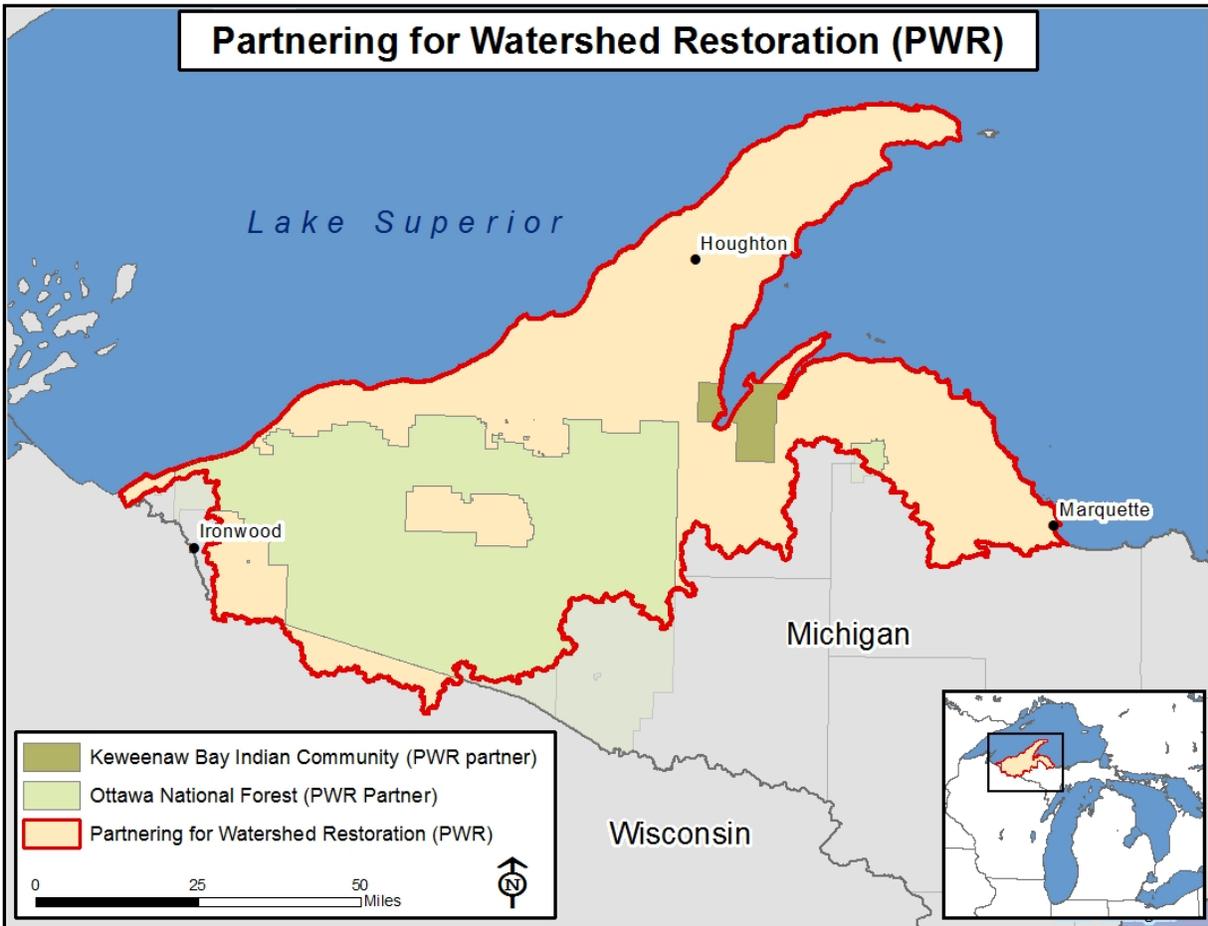


# Partnering for Watershed Restoration (PWR) Guiding Principles

## 1. Background

The Partnering for Watershed Restoration (PWR) group is a collaborative effort of Federal, Tribal, State and local agencies, academic institutions, industry, non-profits and citizen groups to accelerate watershed restoration on public and private lands in the south-central Lake Superior basin of Michigan's Upper Peninsula through information sharing and the pursuit of projects of shared interest (Figure 1).

Figure 1 PWR Service Area



A Steering Committee for PWR was formed in April 2013 and included representatives from the Superior Watershed Partnership, the U.S. Forest Service, The Trust for Public Land, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community. The initial goal of the committee was to plan and facilitate a one-time workshop to discuss watershed threats affecting the western and central Upper Peninsula. The first workshop was held at the Ottawa National Forest's Black River Harbor Recreation Area in July of 2013 and was attended by over 50 people, representing 23 organizations. Interactive polling software was used to promote

conversation and encourage responses to topics of shared concerns, including threats to our watersheds, restoration work underway, funding opportunities and ideas for future cooperation. Since this time, more than 200 individuals, representing 85 organizations have participated in PWR workshops, field events, and/or development of cooperative funding proposals.

During 2016, funding was obtained to create a PWR Coordinator position to help implement PWR goals and objectives. As well as the addition of the coordinator position, the Steering committee has changed over the last three years as well. The Trust for Public Land has left the Steering committee and a representative for The Nature Conservancy and Michigan Technological University have joined the committee. While this effort involves many stakeholders representing a variety of public and private organizations, the group has maintained its focus of promoting collaborative watershed restoration that supports the goals and priorities of the Lake Superior Lake-Wide Action and Management Plan (LAMP).

## **2. Mission Statement**

The mission of PWR is to work collaboratively across organizational boundaries to implement LAMP priorities on public and private lands that will result in healthy, functioning watersheds and improve the quality of life for residents in the south-central Lake Superior basin of Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

## **3. Goals and Objectives**

The goal of the PWR collaborative is to build a diverse coalition of partners to:

- Increase communication across organizational/jurisdictional boundaries
- Identify opportunities to leverage technical and financial resources to implement prioritized projects on public and private lands
- Share resources and assist partner organizations as feasible and as member goals align
- Increase public awareness of issues and engage public and private landowners in watershed restoration and protection efforts

PWR Objectives include:

- Maintain a Steering Committee and Coordinator position to support on-going and future collaborative watershed restoration actions
- Provide a venue for group networking through bi-annual meetings, workshops, and special events
- Host and maintain a PWR website to share news, upcoming events, and project information and accomplishments
- Share funding opportunities, data and assessments for the region, and technical resources
- Adopt standardized templates/checklists for consistent data collection, tracking, and reporting
- Inform and involve the public in collaborative restoration and protection efforts through newsletters, media outlets, and opportunities to get involved in hands-on restoration work
- Document and report results of on-the-ground restoration actions as they relate to Lake Superior LAMP priorities

#### 4. Organizational Structure

At present, the organizational structure of the PWR collaborative includes a Steering Committee, Coordinator and members at large (Figure 2). The roles and responsibilities of these members is summarized below.

Figure 2 PWR Organization Chart

<b>Steering Committee</b>	<b>Membership</b>	<b>Coordinator</b>
Emily Clegg Easement Manager The Nature Conservancy	Federal Agencies  State Agencies  Tribal Agencies  Local Government  Non-governmental organizations  For-profit organizations  Not-for-profit organizations  Industry  Citizen Groups  Private Citizens	Jeff Koch PWR Coordinator Superior Watershed Partnership
Stacy Cotey Ph.D. student in Forest Science at Michigan Tech		
Christie Deloria-Sheffield Great Lakes Regional Coordinator U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Coastal Program		
Allison George District Conservationist Natural Resource Conservation Service		
Erin Johnston Wildlife Biologist Keweenaw Bay Indian Community Natural Resources Department		
Chris Kovala Environmental Coordinator U.S. Forest Service, Ottawa National Forest		
Carl Lindquist Executive Director Superior Watershed Partnership		
Pam Nankervis Wildlife Biologist U.S. Forest Service, Ottawa National Forest		
Rachael Guth District Manager Marquette County Conservation District		

## PWR Member Roles and Responsibilities:

### *Steering Committee:*

The PWR Steering Committee currently consists of 7 volunteer positions representing 3 Federal agencies, 2 NGO's, and 1 Tribal agency and 1 Academic Institution (Figure 2). Roles and responsibilities of this committee include:

- Develop and implement guiding principles and annual plan(s) of work
- Maintain funding for the PWR Coordinator
- Oversee and guide PWR Coordinator activities
- Assist PWR coordinator as needed
- Decide which funding opportunities to pursue as a collaborative.
- Plan meetings, workshop presentations, and special events
- Participate in monthly PWR calls
- Share documented results and accomplishments with the Lake Superior Binational Partnership
- Promote PWR at local, regional, and national meetings

### *PWR Coordinator:*

The PWR Coordinator position was created during 2016 under an agreement between the Ottawa National Forest (ONF) and the Superior Watershed Partnership with funding obtained by the ONF from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. The current Roles and responsibilities of the Coordinator include:

- Prepare materials for bi-annual meetings and special topic workshops
- Maintain the PWR website, web-based project tracking tool, and partner project templates
- Maintain a contact list of partners and meeting/workshop attendees
- Maintain a database of current funding opportunities
- Provide news and updates including upcoming funding opportunities to PWR partners via email newsletters, etc.
- Present/share PWR information at local, regional, and national meetings
- Develop/coordinate PWR trainings of interest
- Reach out to PWR members/partners to help identify, fund and implement restoration projects
- Coordinate monthly calls with Steering Committee

### *Members:*

PWR Members participate in bi-annual meetings, workshops and special events; receive regular news and updates; gain opportunities to partner on funding opportunities; and share lessons learned and results of restoration and protection actions.

## **5. Outcomes and Results**

The PWR collaborative anticipates the following outcomes and results:

### *Outcomes*

- Accelerated implementation of LAMP goals and priorities through effective collaboration
- Improved terrestrial and aquatic habitat, water quality, and overall watershed health
- Improved public/community understanding and involvement in watershed restoration and protection

### *Results*

Results of PWR restoration, protection, and outreach actions will be shared with partners and the general public via the PWR website and documented and reported on an annual basis to the Lake Superior Binational Partnership. Metrics include, but are not limited to:

- Number of on-the ground projects implemented by partners
- Cost and number of acres/miles of habitat improved
- Estimated pollutant load reductions (tons of sediment reduced, etc.)
- Number of public and private partners and landowners participating
- Number and type of LAMP priorities addressed