

PWR Meeting Notes October 12, 2016

- **Jeff Koch** – Welcome and Intro.
- PWR website link on Superior Watershed Partnership Website:
<http://superiorwatersheds.org/projects/partnering-for-watershed-restoration-pwr>
- Briefly showed a map of the Joint Chief proposal
- Showed some slides of GLCC efforts with PWR partners
- Newsletter will be archived on the website

- **Ted Kohler** – presents on important streams for brook trout and stopping the lamprey in light of dam removals and connectivity
- Surveyed the status and distribution within the PWR area; absent, vulnerable, self-sustaining etc.; utilized electro shocking data for status and trends
- Prioritization criteria; status, predicted temperatures, four mgt priorities (Mgt plan for watersheds) etc. per HUC
- 11 focal areas in the UP (none on the ONF)
- WI FWS EQIP cooperative to improve fish and wildlife habitat on private lands as partnerships
- Partners for fish and wildlife, national fish passage program, coastal habitat and spp, GNA – resources for funding/accomplishing fish habitat improvement
- Brook trout team; prioritized for specific species; prioritized sub watersheds for habitat restoration for brook trout; Contact Ted if interested in prioritizing in your area

- **Chris Kovala - LAMP**
- LAMP – 5 year plan update released in September
- Great Lakes Water quality act; Annex 2 Make a LAMP for each of the Great Lakes
- Weekly phone calls to keep up with issues on Lake Superior; Stephanie is lead coordinator for MI
- What's in it? Objectives, status, Research and Monitoring direction, Actions
- 9 objectives: maintain good ecological condition etc. all objectives are rated as good current status except FAIR rating for “tribs and watersheds are in good condition”
- Climate Change, Dam Removal etc. are addressed within the document
- Identified threats and actions and now we need to share it...how to interest the general public in this process....cliff notes in a comic book format (sort of kidding)? Focus on private lands and available alternatives.... Forests for Fish is a current MI DNR effort and includes building it into forest management plans....
- i.e. Great Lakes Literacy.net; science and excellence for the great lakes – to help distill the info into public level publications; funding for outreach must be found (There is a Great lakes stewardship initiative k-12 programs Houghton 13 schools involved)

- **Bob Jensen; chocolay raptor center and Trout Unlimited (past president of TU)**
- MI is one of the most active states
- Restore protect and connect watersheds for trout; west branch Escanaba in Dickinson (6 county effort in the central UP); grad student for two summers mapped w branch of Escanaba; one culvert replaced Swartz Creek and Swartz creek dam removal in works for next July; 200 miles of natural cold water reproduction enhancement; several grants and chapter money
- Iron county Paint River and Cooks Run next year through Iron Baraga Cons District

- Salmon in the Classroom; Fish tank in classrooms and release young trout and include fisheries info into curriculum \$1500 per school and 8 schools so far (Contact Bob Jensen if interested)
 - Scholarship program; MTU NMU Lake State - \$1500 two awards per year
 - Staffed teams for Henry Quinlan for status electrofishing;
 - **Chocolay Raptor Center**; 4th year w/ permits from USFWS and MI DNR; Gwinn Sawyer Veterinarian
 - Eric the red tailed hawk, Sage GH owl, Peregrine falcon Phoenix; all have permanent injuries
 - CRC organized for two purposes to save the birds and to educate the public
 - Rehab about 35 birds per year with about 12 being releasable on average
 - Lots of school programs; Have a Facebook Page
 - Bald eagle to be released next week; was under weight immature eagle; released northern saw whet owl;
 - 60% human related and lead ingestion for eagles and vultures (grain of rice sized lead can kill an eagle), car collisions
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- **Pete Hrodey; Sea Lamprey Barriers (11:12 am)**
 - Issue, current status, important watershed and streams to lamprey control
 - Introduced in 1930s decimated fish populations y 1960s; formed Great Lakes Fisheries Commission
 - 12-18 month parasitic phase; spring spawning in streams and then die (60-100,000 eggs per female); larvae can live in stream sediment from 3-7 years; ride out in a flooding event; migrate into the Lake and live there for 12-18 months and feed on other fish
 - Targets the larvae (lampricide "TFM") and block access to adults for spawning; trout have rebounded since the 1970s
 - 20 million annual investment between US and Canada to protect 7 billion dollar fishery
 - Mid 90-s to 2000; lessened the chemical and populations rebounded for a while
 - 2015 below wounding level targets; current population is made almost entirely of naturally reproducing lake trout
 - Barriers are important to avoid spawning habitat; couldn't keep up with the control efforts.
 - Why not reduce more recruitment through trapping and killing – STOP releasing for mark recapture; reduce mark recapture to tri-annual studies.....?? FWS is considering more kill trapping/permanent removal....
 - Lamprey barrier; 18" drop between crest and tailwater during springtime flows; also reduces passage of some native species
 - Barrier consultations, 3 or 4 staff that track barrier removals in the great lakes Duluth to Watertown New York; 400 consultations since year 2000, increased significantly due to GLRI stream crossing efforts
 - 99% culvert replacements are not a concern due to spring time access still available to lamprey spawning for perched culverts
 - Do not generally support dam removals for major lamprey control locations; case by case basis
 - Support passage efforts with fish ladders that block lamprey; don't home back to original spawning ground, will move wherever conditions are favorable so it is a moving target
 - 10,000 barrier database only concerned about 1,000 structures that shouldn't be removed; working with partners for fish passage projects in those areas
 - Decision support tool; Barrier Mapping Tool: www.data.glf.org

- Displays the barriers and highlights the important ones for sea lamprey control; highlights the upstream habitat that each barriers affect. Linked to sea lamprey control program database.
 - Pete McIntyre – Fishwerks; Optimization tool to target candidate barriers aimed at maximizing return on investment; incorporates lamprey control information for lampricide costs, history of infested length and first barrier locations. <https://greatlakesconnectivity.org/>
 - NEMO – new technology pulsed direct current system for electrical barrier. Too dangerous in the past, better technology today.
 - Can repel lamprey with ground up lamprey flesh (pheromone cues)
 - 40-50 traps throughout the basin...looking more at the control efforts with trap and kill.
 - New barrier design that can be controlled to aid native species but stop lamprey; based on water levels and water temperature (lamprey move in warmer temps)
 - Future: Selective bi-directional fish passage demonstration site; allow non-target fish passage and block only sea lamprey using selective bi-directional fish sorting (expensive to implement; 3 million funding found for this demo site)
 - Investigating trade offs with partners removing barriers.
 - No market for great lakes lamprey due to contaminants mainly mercury
- **Mark Fedora – Joint Chief’s Proposal**
 - Gave an overview of the types of projects in the recent Jet Chief’s project and information we gathered along the way; long list of projects for other grant opportunities if we don’t get it here. Decision by February 2017 (ask to see the proposal if you are interested)
 - It includes invasive species control, aquatic organism passage, healthy watershed public outreach in conjunction with the MI DNR and local conservation districts, additional funds in EQIP for public participants
- **Allison George – NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program**
 - **Website:**
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/farmland/rcpp/>
 - Encourages collaboration and innovative solutions for natural resource concerns
 - Farm Bill money - \$100 million per year until 2018
 - Capped at \$10 million/application
 - EQIP Env Quality Incentives Program (cost share), Conservation Stewardship Program 5 year plan awards private landowners for conservation already in place and implementing new (set \$), Healthy Forest Reserve program (ACEPlike easement program), Agric. Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)
 - Some flexibility to adjust the terms in order to achieve the purpose; no admin costs IDC but can pay for wages
 - Applications are evaluated on: Participation (lots of partners)
 - Innovation (new and interesting ways to get things done)
 - Contribution (leverage and match)
 - Eligible partners (apply for the grants) – producers, associations, tribes, state or unit of government, local conservation, road commissions, universities
 - Eligible Land – Cropland, grassland, rangeland, pastureland, non industrial private forest land, other like wetlands and riparian buffers
 - Eligible Participants: Private land owners participate through these partner agencies

- I.e., Am. Bird Conservancy tri-state proposal for GW warbler; hired a forester to get landowners involved using dedicated EQIP for early successional habitat; paid by field appointments paid through Am Bird Cons from NRCS
- Exceptions exist; partners can facilitate the application process...
- Three Funding pools: 1) Critical Conservation Areas, 2) National, and 3) State – pick one only and you are committed to those goals/strategies/criteria
- Ranked by state if you choose state pool, CCA – National headquarter evaluation of applications
- Great lakes has a lot of opportunity; MN, WI MI, IA, OH conservation districts should get involved cross state boundaries
- Alt Funding: No match required but Leverage (must get a letter from funding source) and contribution, admin services,
- Lead partners required to provide annual and final reports, work closely with NRCS district conservationists
- How to apply:
- Email the application
- Preproposal first; requirements more lenient then invited for a full proposal
- Proposal must include detailed match/leverage, budget, timelines, measurable results/deliverables....
- Funded in full until money runs out
- Listing of NRCS practices (alphabetical index): Non-industrial private land practices....
- http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull/null/?cid=nrcs143_026849
- Web pdf that Chris put up...2017 Request for Proposal:
- http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/PA_NRCSConsumption/download?cid=nrcseprd966206&ext=pdf
- Jeff is asking for brainstorming project ideas; a matrix of projects on hand to be more efficient at grant applications as they become available BREAK OUT SESSION
- Broad list of resource concerns (page 10 RFP)
- Pre- and full-proposal applications submitted for consideration must identify the resource concern(s) to be addressed through the project. National resource concern priorities established under this notice include:
 - Excess/Insufficient Water/Drought;
 - Water Quality Degradation;
 - Soil Quality Degradation;
 - Inadequate Habitat for Fish, Wildlife, and invertebrates;
 - Air quality impacts;
 - Degraded Plant Condition (specific to certain CCA only);
 - Energy; and
 - Climate Change
- **Chris's Group Discussion**
- Commercial forest practices; how best to work with them
- Conservation Districts- how to get them more funding UP wide
- Education – K-12, general public

- Engages wastewater treatment and municipalities
- Land purchase or easement possibilities
- Stream crossing database, keep adding to the current one
- LiDAR for the PWR area or beyond, LiDAR specialist
- Focus groups to keep working through it...??
- Ted Koehler is available to assist with prioritizing for brook trout management; prioritize at the watershed level and later to narrow it down to specific sites
- LAMP- action to eliminate phragmites

- **Erin's Group Discussion**

- Issues: culverts, connectivity, forestry practices, legacy mining, lake associations,
- Education: Commercial forest or Youth? Youth easier;
- More watershed education in the schools or offer a watershed summer camp with different watershed health activities (ages 12-17) 1 week camp with a family day; day camp at campgrounds near rivers and lakes; stewardship project to explain and show off to families (Camp Nesbit) FUNDING: GLRI, Education, etc.

- **Mark's Group:**

- **Watershed Resiliency**

- Goal: Improving tributaries and watersheds for long term sustainability of water quality and habitat.
- Riparian Corridors, infrastructure, forest health
- **Riparian project ideas**
- Partners: Private Landowners, State & Federal & County, Industrial Forest, DOT, University, Tribes
- Projects: AOP, plantings, buffers, armoring stream fords, large wood fishery structure, stream bank stabilization,
- **Infrastructure project ideas**
- Partners: Road commissions, municipalities, Energy Companies, Pipeline industries, Railroads, MDOT, health department, townships, Universities, Tribes
- Projects: Powerline invasives, recreational vehicle use improvements, Septic systems and sanitation, armoring ditches and drainages, storm water runoff, Culvert replacement (AOP), bridge replacement, dam removals, first barrier assessments for Lamprey,
- **Forest Health project ideas**
- Partners: Private landowners, industrial forestry, State & Federal forestry, Universities, NGOs, Tribes, County, School Forests
- Projects: Corridors (planting, buffers), invasive species, forest disease abatement, BMP education/evaluation, Long lived conifer retention/planting, conservation easement, urban forestry, habitat diversity (unique habitats, barrens, grasslands, cedar swamps, young forests, bogs, wetlands), rare species support (moose, wood turtle, GW warbler, etc.)
- Related project elements: Pursue LiDAR, Outreach coordinator