



Benzie Conservation District
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Benzie Watersheds Coalition Meeting Notes - Draft
Tuesday, May 25, 2017
Benzonia Township Hall 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Present : (21 Persons) Tad Peacock (Benzie Conservation District - BCD), John Ransom (BCD), Wil Swiecki (Platte Lake Improvement Association - PLIA), Kim Balke (Conservation Resource Alliance), Mel Keranen (Long Lake Benzie Association), Mary Reed (Portage Lake Watershed Forever), Dave Long (Upper Herring Lake Association), Fred Oeflein (Lower Herring Lake Association), Bill Henning (Upper Herring Lake Association), Ed Hoogterp (Crystal Lake & Watershed Association - CLWA, Benzie Drain Commissioner) , Jerry Heiman (PLIA), Greg Goudy (DEQ), Tamara Lipsey (DEQ), Phil and Elizabeth Hill (CLWA), Emily Cook (Invasive Species Network), Jane Perrino (BCD), Stacy Daniels (CLWA) Mark Grossnickle (Health Department)

Tad opened the meeting at 1:31 pm.

Topics:

1. Member Updates (Highlights)

Elizabeth Rodgers-Hill – Looking for partnerships within Benzie County for a Shoreline stewardship group. Suggested everyone reads "[Social Marketing to Protect the Environment](#)"

Greg Goudy – Started to review the Herring Lakes Management Plan. Front page looks good.

Ed Hoogterp – Held a meeting with the BC road commission to discuss issues with the roads around Crystal Lake shoreline. US Fish and Wildlife Service recently conducted Sea Lamprey treatments on Cold Creek Outlet and Betsie River.

Tamara Lipsey (DEQ Lansing office) – Looking for sites to survey within the Betsie and Platte rivers. Contact Tamara if anyone has any input or interest in particular sites for 2018 survey. DEQ has approved the E coli TMDL for next year. DEQ has developed [algal bloom](#) response team lead by Sarah Holden.

Mel (Long Lake) – Fish stocking today! Continued water testing, invasive species surveys, and 4th of July boat parade.

Fred (Lower Herring Lake) – Finished watershed management plan. Continuing water quality monitoring from plan. Planning phragmites and EWM treatments.

Wil (Platte Lake) – Hatchery phosphorus output was in violation for May do to treatments in food. Continued water sampling with BCD. Looking for grant money to track phosphorus in the North Branch. Meet with road commission; runoff from gravel pit and fertilizer on roadsides.

Bill Henning & Dave Long (Upper Herring Lake) – Finished watershed management plan. Ground water sampling has shown high phosphorus at both sites.

Mary (Portage Lake) – Manistee shoreline steward program, they have installed rain gardens in the watershed. Trying to get sewer system around lake with support of 5

townships and the tribe. They have a swimmers itch meeting 1 pm June 16th. After treatments they are down to just 22 acres of EWM.

Dave Long (Flow) – microfibers pollution; conduct a study on Grand Traverse Bay. Looks like it's moving through the aquatic food web.

Jim Hamp (Crystal Lake and Watershed Association) – Conducting year 2 of the aquatic plant survey. Found EWM along the east and southeast shoreline. Getting a drone survey this summer to find weed beds before the plant survey.

Dave Wynne (CLWA) – continuing swimmers itch program and merganser removal.

Stacy (CLWA) – Noticing that we are working on same problems 50 years later (e coli Beulah) Submitted E coli TMDL plan for Crystal lake

Kim (Conservation Resource Alliance) – updated the River care map and completed \$60k in bridge removal projects on the Platte and Betsie. Applied for Sustain Our Great Lake Grant to improve road crossings on the North Branch of the Platte and Betsie trib in GT county. Draft forthcoming for the Betsie Recreation Access plan.

2. Old Business

- a. **Volunteers Stream Monitoring Program Update** – Sampling for aquatic macroinvertebrates was completed on the Betsie, Herring, and Platte on 5/13 and Working on ID's currently and will have a report on the BCD's website this winter.
- b. **Invasive Species Network update (Emily Cook)** – finished up garlic mustard treatments and are now working Japanese Knotweed, Baby's breath and Japanese barberry.
- c. **Herring Lakes Management Plan** – submitted and under review.
- d. **MLSA conference** – Benzie was well represented including Crystal Lake and Watershed Association winning for Most Outstanding lake association.
- e. **Aquatic Invasive Species Update** – BCD received 2 year grant to run a mobile boat wash station (with a second boat wash next year). Coverage area includes Manistee, Benzie and Leelanau Counties.

3. New Business/Projects

- a. **Salination in freshwater (Greg Goudy)** - new study shows salination in lakes and stream near road crossings in 70% of waterbodies
- b. **Lake Ann AIS funding** – Ann lake Property Owner Association is asking for township to create funds for AIS treatments before any AIS's are found in order to quickly treat any problems that may arise.
- c. **Watershed Protection Committee** – Administered through the BCD and will be used as a database clearing house, updating watershed plan and bench marks, and create a consistent water monitoring plan in the Betsie River watershed.

Next meeting date: Next meeting date is October 24, 2017 at 1:30 pm.

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 3:45 pm

Notes taken by: John Ransom