

Arcadia-Pierport Watershed Plan

Minutes from the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) meeting of January 16, 2014

Location: Pleasanton Valley Community Center (PVCC), Arcadia

Attendees: Doug Carter, Sam Catanese, Sharon Goble, Brad Hopwood, Chip May, Chris Sullivan, Laura Heintzelman (Manistee Foundation), Tim Ervin (AES), Kathy Morin (AES), John Iacoangeli (B&R).

The ELT met at 11:00 am.

Agenda

- 1) Brief review of Leadership Team purpose
- 2) Review of Coastal Zone Management (CZM) grant
- 3) Review of Agreement between AES and B&R to work with the Leadership Team in developing a Watershed Plan.
- 4) Work Elements to be completed with the CZM grant and expected timing for those work elements.
- 5) Next steps; additional funding

Announcements:

- 1) PVCC agreed to be a repository for Watershed Plans and community information.
- 2) Sharon Goble has been hired by B&R as Project Manager, but will also participate as a volunteer for non-grant tasks.
- 3) Tim Ervin has a new e-mail address: Tim@timervin.com

Leadership Team Purpose and AES/B&R Role

AES's role varies in each Leadership Team organization depending needs and experience. Leadership Team Responsibilities:

- a) Must be knowledgeable about the Project and educate the public
- b) Must work closely with the consultant and help identify specific roles that community members can play.
- c) The Leadership Team plays a critical role in getting community members involved and informed. *B&R will establish a website and blog. Arcadia resident Al Schroeder also has a bulletin board on Facebook dedicated to Arcadia events and news that may possibly be used to post various watershed documents and announcements.* The Watershed Plan is a non-regulatory document and is only meaningful if the community is involved in its development and implementation. The best Watershed Plans have strong volunteer participation. It is important to

the State to have a Watershed Plan here because of the importance of the waterbodies within the watershed boundaries.

d) The Leadership Team provides continuity between planning and implementation, including restoration, additional initiatives, or recreation projects.

Discussion:

It's important to self select co-chairs whose role among other things includes coordination of fund-raising activities, and management of the planning and implementation process. *Sam Catanese and Sharon Goble agreed to be co-chairs.* On average, Leadership Teams consist of 8-12 members. Laura and Tim suggested a number of additional team members and/or invitees to Leadership meetings that could provide expertise to the watershed planning process including someone from MDEQ, MDOT, MDNR, County Road Commission, Sea Grant, Fish and Wildlife Service, Portage Lake Forever, Little River Band, Conservation Resource Alliance, as well as someone from the County Planning office. Several names of Pierport residents were proposed, and it was suggested that a separate meeting with Pierport residents be convened to inform them of the Watershed Planning efforts and to seek their participation. A number of additional names of residents in the watershed were suggested to invite to participate in the Executive Leadership Team.

Sharon asked about web fund-raising, for example Kickstarter.com. Laura explained that there are a couple of things to be aware of, if that approach is taken: 1) a percentage of around 7% of the money raised goes to the host website, and 2) there is a time limit to raise the money-if you don't meet your funding goal within that time limit, then you don't receive ANY of the money pledged.

Laura suggested that another information piece be developed that includes a map, a Fact Sheet and Instructions on how to donate. It was suggested that a Poster of the Watershed be developed to distribute throughout the communities to help inform them of the Watershed planning effort underway. John suggested two particularly good watershed plans for the group to review: Charlevoix's Watershed Plan and Bear Creek's Watershed Plan. John also reported that the Boardman Watershed Plan does a good job of describing the roles of the Leadership Team and the Executive Leadership Team.

Review of CZM Grant and the Tasks To Be Completed Under the Grant; Timeframes

John explained that in accordance with the Scope of Work, Tasks 1-3 will be covered by the CZM grant, which generally include determination of the watershed boundary (to be approved by MDEQ), a review of existing plans and base documents, an asset inventory, assessment of designated and desired uses, establishment of a website and other communication tools, and identification of water quality threats. Most of these tasks are anticipated to be conducted through March, with some possibly into early April.

Discussion:

Chris indicated that he has a lot of data that was collected for the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy (GTRLC) grant pre-proposal to fund the second phase of the Arcadia marsh restoration project. The full proposal for GTRLC's grant is due April 3rd with a final grant

decision expected in May. John said that the website framework is done and that the Lakes-to-Land website will be set up to host the Watershed Planning information. Sam suggested that there be links to other watershed plans including Portage Lake and Bear Creek. Laura stressed the importance of getting the website details finalized sooner rather than later, and suggested that watershed photos would be important to include, citing the Portage Lake forever web photography. Tim suggested that community open house meetings could begin in May or June.

Next Steps; Additional Funding

A meeting with Pierport residents will be arranged to inform them of the watershed project and to seek Leadership Team participants.

Sharon will work with Laura to develop additional watershed informational materials.

Tim is awaiting results of the SAW grant submittal. Word of a grant decision is expected sometime in February. If the grant proposal is accepted, it will fund the cost to develop the watershed plan. If the grant proposal is not accepted, Tim has some other grant funding sources to pursue. However, Leadership Team fund-raising will be critical in order to complete the preparation of the watershed plan by the end of the year in order to meet the CZM grant requirements.

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 12th at 11:00 am at PVCC. Future meetings will be scheduled for the second Wednesday of each month.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:30pm.

Submitted by Sharon Goble 1-28-16