

Arcadia-Pierport Watershed Plan

Minutes from the Executive Leadership Team meeting of February 12, 2014

Location: Pleasant Valley Community Center, 11 am

Attendees: Sam Catanese (Co-chair), Sharon Goble (Co-chair), John Iacoangeli (Beckett&Raeder), Chris Sullivan (GTRLC), Stephanie Ogren (LRBOI Fish Biologist), Dan Mays (LRBOI Fish Biologist), Dick & Sandy Landback, Don & Bette Oswell, Jon & Carol Phillips, Jim and Jane Alstrom, Kirsten Sheffield (Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator, Manistee County), Rob Carson (Manistee County Planner), Greg Goudy (MDEQ, Water Resources Division)

The Agenda included:

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Leadership Team Recruitment Update
3. Watershed Plan Funding Review and Task Update
 - A) CZM grant and Scope of Work Tasks covered by this grant
 - B) Task Updates
 - 1) Watershed Plan Website
 - 2) Review updated map
 - 3) Watershed studies: Mark Tonello and Stephanie Ogren
 - 4) Other Watershed assessment info?
 - C) Saw Grant Update
4. Partnership Agreement Signatures Strategy discussion
 - A) Press Release
 - B) Al Schroeder FB site
 - C) Contact lists
 - D) Other
5. Fundraising Strategy Discussion
6. Next steps
7. Next meeting: [March 11, 2014](#) @ PVCC

After Welcome and Introductions, the Leadership Team Recruitment was discussed. Our gratitude was expressed to Bob Wangbichler, who, although not in attendance today, had encouraged his Pierport neighbors and friends to attend today's meeting. Jon Phillips from Pierport is willing to serve on the Executive Leadership Team

Others that had been invited to today's meeting but did not attend included:

Mark Sohlden, Manistee County Road Commission (Schedule conflict, interested in future meeting)
Mark Tonello, MDNR Fisheries Biologist (Unable to attend, interested in future meeting)
Scott Heintzelman, MDNR Fish Tech Supervisor (acknowledged invite, would coordinate with Mark Tonello)

Nate Winkler, Conservation Resource Alliance (Unable to attend, interested in future meeting)
Frank Beaver, LRBOI Planner (No response)

Other names recommended at our last meeting to be contacted include:

Jim Draz, Greater Bear Watershed Plan
Dick Graham, Manistee Road Commission Board
Patty O'Donnell and Gary Neimi, MDOT
Kathy Ervin and Mary Reed, Portage Lake Forever
Rick Westerhof and Charlie Wooley, F&W Service
Mark Breederland, Sea Grant

Updates on current Executive Leadership Team members that have missed the last few meetings:

Mark Bolthouse is no longer interested in participating
John Casey is in Florida
Dave Smeltzer is still interested in participating
Karen and Tom Somerville-Sam will follow up to seek their interest

Additional recommendations for Leadership Team expansion and Technical Assistance

Scott Hughey, NRCS was recommended by Stephanie. He is knowledgeable of BMPs described in the Greater Bear Watershed Plan, and could provide additional contacts to help with this Watershed Plan.

Representation is still needed:

- 1) From Blaine Township (John I. to recommend nominee)
- 2) From Joyfield Township-Betsy Evans, Chair of the Planning Commission was recommended
- 3) From Onkama- John ? or Al Taylor, Planning Commission, Conservancy Board was recommended

The Watershed Plan funding was discussed. A Coastal Zone Management grant was signed at the end of December totaling \$30,000. The start date for the grant is January 1, 2014 and the end date is March 31, 2015. This only covers a portion of the estimated Watershed Plan cost (total cost is estimated to be \$85,000). Although the full \$85,000 hasn't been raised through grants or donations, the Consultant agreed to commence a number of tasks in the Scope of Work that current funding covers. These tasks include:

- 1) Determination of Watershed boundary
- 2) Review existing plans and base documents
- 3) Prepare an Asset Inventory
- 4) Establish a website and other communication tools.
- 5) Start identifying water quality desired uses.

The tasks that have been accomplished to date include:

- 1) Establishment of the Watershed Plan website on the Lakes-to-Land host website:
<http://www.lakestoland.org/arcadia-pierport-watershed/> Greg Goudy reviewed the Watershed Plan process and explained that the Watershed Plan certification is the necessary first step to future grant funding for project implementation.
- 2) Updated Watershed Boundary map, and associated data layers for the watershed. John I. presented four large, color maps including: a) a draft Regional Watershed Boundaries (which needs some additional tweaking), b) Strong and Steep Slopes, c) Natural and Sensitive Areas, and d) Arcadia-Pierport

Watershed Boundary. One of the attendees suggested that maps be prepared for sale to the community. John I. stated that 11x17 inch maps could be made for that purpose. Sharon asked the group what they thought a reasonable price would be for a map, and the consensus was \$10.

3) Two watershed studies conducted by MDNR Fisheries Biologist Mark Tonello in 2008 (Bowens Creek watershed) and 2012 (Arcadia Lake) were discussed by Sharon and Biologist Stephanie Ogren reviewed her 2013 Arcadia Marsh/Bowens Creek Restoration and Fish Passage study. All 3 studies are or will be placed on the Watershed Plan website.

4) Other watershed assessment information is currently being tracked down and Sharon discussed various programs in the MDEQ, and other departments such as the Health Department that may have useful environmental data. The amount of data may not be great, however. Mark Tonello's research suggests that lake temperature data is still needed, and he states in his paper that there have not been many environmental studies in this watershed. Stephanie thought she could locate temperature data, as well as macro-invertebrate collection data. Greg will check for bio-survey information that may have been collected prior to P51 Assessment protocols. Chris reported that GTRLC was seeking a grant for more restoration work on the Marsh that possibly would generate important data for the Watershed Plan. Rob Carson reported that he is seeking a grant through the U.S. Forest Service for a "Dash Boat" that would be used for water studies and to control invasive aquatic plants in Bar Lake in Manistee, and possibly other lakes in the county. Concern was raised about the quality of water in the aquifer that produces Old Faceful, the artesian well at Pierport's beach, and about fracking in general.

In early December, Beckett&Raeder collaborated with another consulting firm (Abonmarche) who submitted a SAW grant application to MDEQ. The SAW grant program received over \$400 million in state funding to be disbursed as grants and loans over 3 or 4 years. The grant application seeks to cover the rest of the cost to prepare the Watershed Plan and also includes quantitative studies that would help qualify the Watershed Plan for federal certification. In addition, the grant application included a request for money to cover some remediation costs. In early February the MDEQ announced that they had received 673 applications totaling \$541 million. The amount of grant and loan money to be made available in 2014 is only \$97 million, therefore the MDEQ intends to conduct a lottery to determine which grantees will receive funding this year. Arcadia's application on behalf of the Watershed totaled about \$183,000. The MDEQ intends to publish the details of the lottery process later in February, and will not be processing disbursements before April of this year. If Arcadia receives the grant award, a Watershed Plan can be prepared to qualify for both a state and federal certified plan. Once a plan is certified, the community is better positioned to seek watershed implementation grant funding from both state and federal grant programs. If Arcadia does not receive SAW grant funding this year, Tim Ervin, (AES) has several other grant sources in mind to apply to.

Next, the Partnership Agreement signatures strategy and timing was discussed. Several attendees felt that the Partnership Agreement should stress that the signatures are for "support" of a watershed plan, and that the word "commitment" might deter some from signing the Agreement, who otherwise support the Watershed Plan effort.

Raising public awareness about the Watershed Plan will be an important task. Sharon discussed a draft press release and asked what others thought the timing should be to release it. Questions were asked about the timing of community visioning sessions, and John I. explained that in the past, visioning sessions were held in June and July in order to include the seasonal residents. Based on that information, the consensus was to send out the press release just prior to the scheduled visioning sessions. Suggestion for where to send the press release were provided. Sharon discussed several other opportunities to raise awareness including Facebook and developing contact lists. John I. added that postcards announcing the visioning sessions for other community planning efforts had been sent to all property holders. Sharon

described a brochure that Laura Heintzelman, Director of the Manistee County Community Foundation had suggested be prepared to help educate the community and visitors about the Watershed Plan and how to donate.

Discussion on Fundraising strategies was postponed to a later meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 11, 2014 at 11 am at PVCC.

The meeting partially adjourned at 12:40pm. As there was a little time before the official end of the meeting at 1:00 pm, John I. asked the technical people to stay to discuss a few more technical issues regarding the Watershed Plan. John suggested that for the next meeting, the technical group meet from 11am to noon, with the non-technical