

Arcadia-Pierport Watershed Plan

Minutes from the Leadership Team meeting of March 12, 2014

Location: Pleasant Valley Community Center, 11 am

Attendees: Sharon Goble (Co-chair), , Chris Sullivan (GTRLC), Dan Mays (LRBOI Fish Biologist), Don Oswell (Pierport), Kirsten Sheffield (Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator, Manistee County), Rob Carson (Manistee County Planner), Brad Hopwood, Mary Reed (Portage Lake Watershed), Chris Riley (U.S. Forest Service), Doug Carter (Arcadia Township).

The Agenda included:

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Review of the Draft Table of Contents for the Watershed Plan

Sharon reviewed 5 different watershed plans (Greater Bear, Portage Lake Forever, Grand Traverse Watershed Plan, Lake Charlevoix Watershed Management Plan, and Bear Creek/Bear Lake, Muskegon County Watershed Plan) and took aspects of each that best fit the Arcadia-Pierport Watershed situation, plus added a section on Biological Communities, noting that Stephanie Ogren and Mark Tonnello had collected data to present to the plan. The maps indicated in the Table of Contents are placeholders at this point-there may be more or a few less maps added depending on what is uncovered during research.

3. Watershed Plan Funding Update

A) Announcement of the SAW Grant recipients

The recipients announcement was expected on March 12th. Update: the results were posted after our meeting, and although Arcadia was not in the first round of funding, it is in the 23rd position for the next round of funding beginning October 1st, and likely will be funded soon afterward.

B) Aquatic Habitat Grant

This grant is being offered through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Beckett&Raeder wrote the grant application (due March 15th) requesting \$50,000. Sharon sought letters of support. 11 Letters of Support were obtained including GTRLC, LRBOI (who committed to \$12,000 in-kind qualified professional time in order to meet the match requirements for this grant), U.S. Forest Service, Ducks Unlimited, USDA Natural Resource Conservation District, Manistee Conservation District, Conservation Resource Alliance, Pleasanton Township and Arcadia Township, and Rob Carson, Manistee County Planner, and the Manistee County Community Foundation. Letters of Support were declined from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation. Update: It appears that this application was rejected for funding. John Iacoangeli is following up to determine if the application was given appropriate consideration.

4. Review of Revision to Partnership Agreement

Based on comments at the last meeting, Sharon prepared a modified Partnership Agreement to clarify that the Agreement is seeking *support* of the Watershed Planning and Implementation process. There were no edits suggested at the meeting and none have been received since the meeting.

5. Leadership Team Recruitment Update.

Dan Oswell from Pierport has agreed to be on the Leadership Team and Kirsten Sheffield will represent the Manistee County Planner's office on the Leadership Team.

Leadership Team still needs representation from Blaine Township, Joyfield Township and Onkama Township.

Several names were discussed to invite to participate on a Technical Committee; more work is needed to formalize the participants in this committee.

6. General Discussion

Chris Riley discussed the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative as a possible funding source for future work. He also mentioned the National Fish Habitat Plan of 2012 as a subplan for the Great Lake Basins Fish Habitat, identifying risks and threats to fish habitat as a means to prioritize projects and activities. He felt the Arcadia-Pierport watershed planning and implementation might possibly qualify for future funding under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative depending on the nature of the activities to be funded.

Communication strategies were briefly discussed. Bear Lake and Portage Lake have community education presentations that could be used or adapted for the Arcadia-Pierport watershed plan community education efforts. It was suggested that the key message should be that everyone around us has a watershed plan, and that once this plan is developed it will be implemented in a reasonable way. Rob Carson described the difference between a Watershed Plan (Guidance, and a pre-requisite for funding opportunities) and a Master Plan (policy-driven). Mary Reed reminded everyone of the Inland Lakes and Stream Conference coming up May 1st, 2nd and 3rd. The Conference details are posted on the Arcadia-Pierport Watershed website (www.lakeistoland.org/arcadia-pierportwatershed) under Events.

The meeting adjourned approximately 12:30pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for April 9, 2014 at PVCC.

Update: The April meeting is cancelled. Next meeting will be **May 14, 2014 at PVCC.**