

Muskegon Lake Watershed Partnership

General Meeting Summary – March 12, 2009 6:15 p.m.

MAREC, 200 Viridian Drive, Muskegon, MI

1) Attendance:

Kathy Evans, Cynthia Price, Wayne Groesbeck, Steve Coverly, Greg Mund, Kim Arter, Dennis McKee, Dennis Kirksey, Rich O'Neal, Carl Ruetz, Brett Kamitz, James Dietrick, Carolyn Weng

2) Minutes:

Minutes of the last meeting were not yet available.

Old Business:

- 3) Kathy Evans discussed the most recent draft of the Muskegon Lake Fish and Wildlife Habitat Restoration, Public Access and Economic Development Improvement Projects. The deadline for submitting the proposal to NOAA is April 6, 2009. Ten proposed projects and their potential funding partners are outlined. Discussions are ongoing with several other potential partners for additional projects. Maps, acreages proposed for cleanup and restoration, and preliminary cost estimates were included. Landowners, the city, and public agencies were being consulted and invited to partner on projects relevant to them. Public access features were incorporated into the project designs as much as possible. The total cost of all projects was estimated to be just under \$24 million. These projects would produce considerable progress toward realizing targets for the removal of several BUIs:

Removal of unnatural fill: 38% of target

Shoreline softening: 75% of proposed linear feet

Open water wetland restoration: ? % of target (to be checked)

Emergent wetland restoration: ? % of target (to be checked)

K Evans will contact the Chamber of Commerce or GVSU on the method for calculating the job creation and long term economic benefits of these cleanup and restoration projects.

Monitoring will be one tool used to assess projects results. Dr. Carl Ruetz, of AWRI, said Fisherman's Landing, Johnson's Point and another restoration site would be included in Fisheries IBI monitoring. For the macrophyte IBI, grids in previously sampled areas of hardened shoreline could be resampled when shoreline softening is accomplished.

Harbor 31/Ryerson Creek mouth: the EPA using Legacy Act funds, plans to take sediment samples to define the volume and extent of contamination.

Fisherman's Landing: in discussion with proprietors about removing unnatural fill from the north edge of the property. Discussing putting in a public access trail to the lakeshore along the Verplank- Fisherman's Landing property line with both landowners.

4) Drinking Water BUI

As agreed at the last meeting MLWP will prepare a submission for MDEQ explaining the seriousness of the risks presented by ground water contamination to the public in the Muskegon Lake area. MLWP officers will meet with the White Lake PAC officers who are also preparing a submission to the MDEQ to discuss common issues. K Evans has gathered the relevant information for MLWP, including documentation from the EPA and the Muskegon County Health Dept. It needs to be read and analyzed and reduced to a 2-page submission with attachments. K Evans will work with Jeff Auch, Chair of the White Lake PAC, to find a mutually available date for officers to meet.

5) MLWP By-laws

Cynthia Price read through the changes to the draft By-laws decided upon at the last meeting for member information. A vote on adoption of the By-laws will be held at the April 2009 meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m.

Submitted by CW