

## **ERCOL-WPIT MEETING**

*Co-Hosted by The Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay and Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council*  
Antrim County Building; Commission Chambers  
May 16, 2018; 1-2:30pm

### **MINUTES**

#### **I. Welcome and Introductions**

- ACD: Tom Clement
- Antrim County: Matthew Cooke, Leslie Meyers
- ESLA: Ruth Bay, Bob Kingon, Gary Chenoweth
- FoCL: Paul Sak
- GTRLC: Todd Vigland
- KCD: Renee Penny
- PA: Deana Jerdee
- TCC: Trish Narwold
- TLA: Becky Norris, Dean Branson
- TLPA: Brad Gerlach
- TOMWC: Grenetta Thomassey
- TWC: Christine Crissman

#### **II. Agenda Review**

#### **III. Old Business**

- A. ERCOL Watershed Protection Plan
  - TOMWC continues to work on the plan.
  - Septic subcommittee agreed on some tasks to be added to the plan.
  - TWC has a draft of the monitoring plan; provided to TOMWC.

#### **IV. New Business**

- A. Anything new happening in the watershed?
  - ACD will facilitate hydraulic studies of the entire ERCOL to identify ways to reduce/eliminate flooding.
  - Leslie from Antrim County Emergency Management reported the early May rains have caused several incidents of homes flooding. Please call 533.6569 if your home has flooding damage so she can create an incident report. They need proof of repetitive loss to obtain funds to help mitigate damage.
  - Grenetta introduced key elements of ERCOL-WPIT, along with priority items to accomplish this year. This will be included for discussion at the July ERCOL-WPIT meeting.

#### **V. Updates**

- A. ACUTE
  - Not much to report, except the storage tank is still coming.
- B. Arctic grayling project
  - Funding was obtained for a MSU study, as well as adding UV lamps at Oden Hatchery.
  - Arctic grayling are not considered an endangered species, which is key to the success of this project.

- Tom will email the latest DNR information release.
- C. Dole Foundation grant
  - All data has been entered from scanned copies on the Online Water Library; LIAA has to update TWC's database.
  - 2 tablets have been purchased for data collection; ACD is working on a data collection sheet and is developing a policy to borrow the equipment
  - There will be a homeowner presentation in August about best practices for riparian landowners.
  - TLPA and TCC intend to submit a follow-up grant proposal focused on the status of Torch Lake
- D. Golden Brown algae
  - Jan Stevenson and team are meeting with TLA to evaluate where they are and what they want to do this summer.
  - TLA will be going nearshore SRP and TP collection at several sites.
- E. Large woody debris
  - TOMWC is very interested in pursuing next steps; what is needed and how do we get funding.
- F. Rugg Pond
  - No report
- G. Septic subcommittee
  - Grenetta and Scott K went to Lansing to testify concerning the 2 legislative bills dealing with septic regulations. Key issues include tying the rules an advisory group will be creating to the requirement to repeal Time of Transfer ordinances, and including funding for Health Departments and individuals.
  - Dean recapped their meeting with DEQ staff concerning land application in Bellaire. TLA is interested in better understanding phosphorous (where it comes from and where it goes to), as well as the process for land application of biosolids. They will continue to pursue this and provide reports on their findings.
- H. Swimmer's itch
  - Partnership is in full swing; more updates to come soon.
- I. Torch Lake Sand Bar Taskforce
  - Continue to pursue crowd control through law enforcement and DNR; potential mass gathering ordinance if they can identify where the county line is.
  - TLPA funds and organizes trash cans, porta potties, etc.
- J. Water trail
  - Whitewater Township recently added some sites; Echo, Torch Lake, and Elk Rapids townships have not agreed to participate yet
  - Coastal Zone Management grant proposal would help with Elk Rapids access sites at Rotary Park and Elk Rapids beach; looking for match
  - DNR continues to refine a statewide water trail program; PA is on the advisory committee; potential opportunity for letters of support for this effort, Deana will provide details.
  - Summer schedule is set; safety boats still needed.
  - Milton Township received funding for a parking lot and pedestrian crossing at park in Kewadin

K. Clam Lake boathouse

- Applicant withdrew appeal on denied permit to modify boathouse.

L. Clearwater Township vegetated buffer ordinance

- Township Planning Commission approved an updated zoning ordinance for water setbacks and vegetation requirements
- Petition was filed so the ordinance revision would go to a public vote in August
- TWC, TLPA, ESLA, and TLA will look into this further.

**VI. General Comments**

- Fish and water quality assessments will occur on Torch Lake this summer
- Lake Association Summit June 18 from 1-4pm at NCMC
- TCC Welcome Center in Alden will be open starting May 24 on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays
- TWC will host Kids Creek Week June 9-15 to celebrate 15 years of restoration work
- ACD is redoing the rain garden on Spencer Creek in Alden and providing signage.

**VII. Remaining meeting dates in 2018**

July 18  
September 19  
November 21

**VIII. Adjourn**