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The Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay Annual Report 2014 – 2015

Elk River Chain of Lake Watershed Plan Implementation Team

- The Watershed Center co-facilitates these bi-monthly meeting with Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council.
- We continue to serve as the permit applicant and fiscal agent for the Fish Shelter Project in Elk, Torch, Clam, Bellaire, and Intermediate Lakes.
- We are working with Tip of the Mitt to write a subwatershed plan for the Chain of Lakes. Tip of the Mitt has obtained a University of Michigan School of Natural Resources and Environment Master's student team, and we are working with them on gathering data, etc.

Stormwater Assessments

- The Watershed Center, in partnership with the Antrim Conservation District, completed stormwater assessments for Shanty Creek, Bellaire, Alden, Central Lake, Ellsworth, and Elk Rapids. The final report of these assessments is complete and is available upon request.
- This project was funded by a grant to The Watershed Center from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.
- We intend to apply for funding in the future to mitigate some of the stormwater impacts identified in this assessment.

Small Dams Inventory

- The Watershed Center, in partnership with the Antrim Conservation District, completed a small dams inventory for Antrim County. The final report of this inventory will be complete by the end of June and will be available upon request.
- This project was funded by a grant to The Watershed Center from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.
- We intend to apply for funding in the future to take appropriate actions at high priority dams identified in this inventory.

Rugg Pond

- The Watershed Center has been involved in discussions about Rugg Pond dam and the management of the surrounding natural area.
- We met with folks from the DNR (fisheries and wildlife divisions), along with members of Kalkaska County's Rugg Pond Committee, to discuss creating a management plan for the area and a short-term maintenance plan for the dam.
- The Watershed Center will continue to help this effort in any way we can.

Kayak Launch at Aarwood Bridge

- The Watershed Center was asked by Clearwater Township to look at their proposed kayak launch improvements at Aarwood Bridge.
- We did a site assessment of the area and gave suggestions for reducing sediment inputs into the river from the use of the launch.
- The Watershed Center is always available to consult on projects such as this to help protect water quality from excess sediments and nutrients.

Outreach

- Throughout the year, The Watershed Center gave numerous presentations to local groups (garden clubs, lake associations, etc.) and participated in several community events.
- We also answered questions from several waterfront landowners and educated them on best management practices to protect water quality at their homes.