



## 2012-2013 ANNUAL REPORT

### Message from the President

As President of the Board of Directors, I am continuously impressed by the work that can be accomplished when paid staff, volunteers and varying organizations work together for a cause. This has been a year of change for the Bad River Watershed Association, but through it all, program work, outreach and education has continued. Over the course of the year a shift in leadership and staff has taken place, but the mission and work of the organization remain constant. In November of 2012, I was elected Board President as Bob Rice moved on to pursue a career in farming. Val Damstra and Matt Hudson also accepted new positions outside of the Association and our efforts began to fill these big shoes. In November of 2012 Mariana Brewster was hired as Office Assistant and after a period of training became our new Volunteer Coordinator. Mary Runkel handled our bookkeeping and on June 1<sup>st</sup> we welcomed Tony Janisch to the organization as our new Executive Director. We have wished several board members well as they moved on to new adventures and have welcomed new board members who offer important skills and experience to the organization.

Throughout these changes, the Bad River Watershed Association continued our work to involve citizens in assessing, maintaining and improving watershed integrity for future generations. In February the Marengo River Action Plan was officially approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. This was the result of a strong cooperative effort between multiple agencies and organizations and provides a comprehensive plan for protection, restoration and future development along the Marengo River, a sub-watershed of the Bad River. We were honored to receive the Lake Superior Magazine Annual Achievement Award in September in recognition of this extraordinary accomplishment. Our work in the Marengo watershed continues as we identify priority lands for restoration, educate landowners about best practices and help guide individuals interested in protecting or restoring their land.

As legislative changes and proposals for a taconite mine within our watershed continued, the BRWA paid close attention. We provided valuable information to the public, legislators and the Department of Natural Resources regarding the unique characteristics of the Bad River watershed, possible impacts that could occur should a mine be developed in the region, and the research which must still take place in order to make educated decisions about such a project. We continued collecting macro-invertebrate and temperature data in the area that would be affected by the proposed mine, adding to our baseline data so that we may better understand the resources at risk. In May the BRWA hosted a summit, bringing together multiple local and statewide organizations to coordinate our efforts to protect the watershed. The summit was an excellent opportunity to connect dedicated groups and individuals who are working to educate and inform our communities. The prospect for a mine in our watershed is the most daunting concern the BRWA has faced in our 11 years. We believe the best way to make decisions about such development is with an informed and engaged community committed to seeking solutions to preserve the watershed, and we will continue to work to that effect.

We enjoyed many opportunities to visit with members, introduce the BRWA to new people and educate the public about our organization, the watershed, mining issues and ways that citizens can get involved. In February, board member Tracey Ledder spoke with Matt Hudson at Science on Tap at the Alley restaurant in Ashland. We attended the Lake Superior Day Celebration hosted by the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, the Canoeopia event in Madison, the Ashland Area Farmers' Market, the Birding and Nature Fest at the Great Lakes Visitor Center and many other events. We also got a chance to relax with members in June at our Solstice Celebration at Prentice Park.

Even during difficult times of transition I am uplifted by the energy and dedication of our members, staff and board to accomplish our mission and protect the water we all depend on. Thank you for your role in this work. The Bad River Watershed Association welcomes new volunteers for water monitoring, committee involvement and other necessary efforts. I hope you'll encourage others to get involved and continue to consider ways of sharing your time and talents with the BRWA. I look forward to seeing you in the upcoming year!

Sincerely,

Sjana Schanning  
Board President



## **Who is the Bad River Watershed Association?**

The Bad River Watershed Association (BRWA) is a community organization that works to involve all citizens in taking care of and enjoying their home watershed. We accomplish this by conducting educational programs and forums about how our watershed can be affected by the decisions we make. In addition, we assist citizens to gather information, identify problems and implement solutions to maintain the integrity of our watershed for future generations. Members who contribute \$25 or more annually, or who volunteer for four hours or more receive our newsletter and enjoy additional benefits such as free admittance to special events.

## **Our Vision:**

The Bad River Watershed Association envisions a future in which change and development within the watershed grow from a stewardship ethic that seeks to minimize ecological damage, while maximizing ecological and community health.

## **Our Mission:**

The mission of the Bad River Watershed Association is to promote a healthy relationship between the people and the natural communities of the Bad River Watershed by involving all citizens in assessing, maintaining, and improving watershed integrity for future generations.

## BRWA Accomplishments July 2012-June 2013

### Watershed Action Program

The Marengo Watershed Action Plan (WAP) was finalized and approved by EPA. BRWA and its partners at the Bad River Natural Resources Department and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources met the Environmental Protection Agency's nine required elements for watershed plans under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act. This collaborative effort is the first of its kind in Wisconsin, and is now a model for other areas around the state.

BRWA continued implementation of the Marengo River Watershed Action Plan (Marengo WAP) by sponsoring 2 Marengo River Watershed Partnership community gatherings attended by over 80 people. We also met with partner agencies and organizations to discuss interested landowners, potential projects, project designs, and funding opportunities to help pay for implementation of best management practices.

The Marengo Riffles Newsletter was sent to local landowners in fall 2012 and spring 2013. In these newsletters, we try to highlight resource concerns, upcoming events, and steps landowners can take to improve watershed health.

Several projects were completed through collaborative efforts with local partners, such as wetland restoration to capture sediment and to 'slow the flow', livestock exclusion fencing to improve water quality, and culvert replacement to enhance fish passage.

### Water Quality Program

BRWA now has an official data sharing policy posted on our website. The policy is designed to make data from the BRWA database as freely available as possible for academic, research, education, and other professional purposes. Our goal is to promote the use of the best available information to make informed decisions.

Macroinvertebrates were collected by 20 volunteers in Fall 2012 at 15 sites, and 28 volunteers in Spring 2013 at 13 sites. Group training at the Mellen School welcomed 12 new volunteers. At least 11 volunteers participated in macroinvertebrates identification sessions held at Northland College.

16 volunteers conducted water chemistry monitoring at 16 sites. When BRWA staff monitoring is included, 24 sites were sampled. Most volunteers participated in the annual water chemistry quality control session.

Our partners at Northland College conducted water chemistry sampling at 14 sites in 4 sub-watersheds, bacteria sampling at 5 sites in the Marengo River sub-watershed, and macroinvertebrate sampling at 9 sites in 3 sub-watersheds.



Macroinvertebrate and continuous temperature data were again collected by staff in 2012 - 2013. All temperature data and macroinvertebrate data collected by BRWA staff are included in Wisconsin's statewide SWIMS water quality database. A Quality Control report was submitted to WDNR along with the data.

Results of our water quality monitoring were presented to several audiences, including the general public, natural resource and scientific agencies, local towns, and a regional non-profit organization.

Together with Northland College-Sigurd



Olson Environmental Institute, BRWA organized and led a meeting of 28 natural resources professionals, from multiple agencies and organizations, to discuss monitoring and data sharing in February 2013. This effort was part of BRWA's continuing work with natural resource partners to bring coordinated scientific information to the decision-making process regarding the potential of an iron mine in the Penokee hills.

## Culvert Program

Culvert interns finished pre-restoration monitoring in summer 2012 at 3 culverts (Mattson Road, and two on City Creek), and summarized results.

In collaboration with the Town of Ashland and Ashland County, 1 culvert was replaced on City Creek at Jokinen Road, restoring ## miles of fish passage.

**Comment [j1]:** need to ask Tom Fratt

A map of culvert sites in the Town of Lincoln was constructed and given to the Town of Lincoln (Bayfield County) leaders. Copies of the data sheet for conducting inventories of culverts were also given to the town and town leaders were briefed on culvert inventory protocols. The town road crew successfully inventoried 175 culverts within the township.

Continuous temperature data were collected by volunteers at 7 sites. These data will be used to help identify and prioritized future culvert restoration sites.

BRWA began collaborating with the US EPA in Duluth to develop a culvert "risk of failure" index using hydrologic modeling of each culvert within BRWA's database. Initial modeling work has been completed, but will be advanced in the future.

## BRWA Committee Roles

**Community Outreach Committee:** In October of 2012, the Membership and Communications Committees merged to form the Community Outreach Committee. Objectives and charges were combined to create a committee with the responsibility of reaching members and non-members with information about BRWA work, activities, and opportunities, as well as about issues critical to the health of our watershed.

The committee assisted with the preparation of the Watershed Waves newsletter, planned and carried out events for education and gathering of members, developed a calendar of events and responsibilities to help guide future efforts and assist in record keeping for future years, added diagnostic software to the BRWA website, and improved the organization and capabilities of the website.

Members of the committee attended several events to share information about the BRWA with the general public including Canoecopia in Madison, Lake Superior Day Celebrations, Ashland Area Farmers Market, Friends of the White River fish boil, the Bad River Tribe Open House, and the Birding and Nature Festival in Ashland. BRWA's Summer Solstice Celebration brought members and friends together to converse, eat, celebrate and learn about the BRWA.

**Program Committee:** The program committee guides the programs undertaken by BRWA, strategizes to improve the efficacy of the programs, and works closely with the fundraising committee to identify potential granting sources to further our program goals. In FY2013, with the loss and turnover of staff, the program committee stepped forward to help fill the gaps.

**Mining Task Force:** With the ongoing potential of the largest open pit taconite pit mine being developed in the headwaters of the watershed, BRWA remained intensely interested. The task force scrutinized permit applications,

drafted comments to regulatory agencies, provided public testimony, worked with other interested organizations to remain informed, and submitted articles and opinions to local press.

**Finance Committee:** The finance committee has the primary responsibilities of managing BRWA's annual budget and raising funds....

The following people served on the one or more BRWA committees in FY2013:

Sharon Anthony	Jo Bailey	Valerie Damstra	Pam Roberts
Mary Dougherty	Eric Nelson	Ruth Oppedahl	Ana Tochterman
Sjana Schanning	Matt Hudson	Cindy Glase	Jay Glase
Kevin Brewster	Erika Lang	Randy Lehr	Tracey Ledder
Joan Elias	Mike Ryan	Bobbi Rongstad	Kelly McKnight

## BRWA FINANCES

## BRWA SUPPORTERS

### \$25 and under

David & Kathy Schutte  
Richard and Susan Davis  
Alan and Stacey Craig  
Elizabeth Icks  
Roslyn Nelson  
Anonymous  
Anonymous  
Anthony Schmitz  
Barb Bayuk  
Barbara Brown  
Betty Tarabek  
Bob Erickson  
Bruce Lindgren  
Carol Buelow  
Carol Noth  
Cathy Techtmann  
Charlene Herron-Jordan  
David and Terri Bahe  
David Henning  
Dennis Gisvold  
Drew Schultz  
Ellie Williams & Kevin Schram  
Freeman and Stein Family  
Glenn Grage Family  
Irene Blakely Family  
James and Carol Wilson  
Jane Hilton  
Jason and Sarah Holmes  
Jeff & Vicki Musselman  
Jeff and Susan Dean  
Jeff Fornear  
Jerold and Margaret Heino Family  
Jim Christopher  
John & Martha Stoltenberg  
Kathy & David Allen Family  
Kent & Patricia Shifferd  
Kristy Jensch Family  
Lisa Williamson Family  
Louis and Kathy Wuest  
Mary Runkel  
Mary Swanson  
Nancy Dillman  
Patricia Rose  
Patrick Mayotte Family  
Rich & Joan Schuppel Family  
Richard and Valla Allen  
Robert Christie  
Robert Jones Family  
Robert Selk  
Slavick Matis Family  
Susan Rutter  
Thomas Piikkila  
Timothy and Karen Fiedler  
Todd Meurer  
Tom & Sheila Ossowski Family  
Tracey Ledder Family

### \$26-\$50

Marilyn Wilson  
Bro and Brown Family  
Laurence Wiland Family  
Ricky & Valerie Damstra Family  
Tom Takahashi  
Tony and Jean Wallner  
Jim & Jane Anklam  
Alfred and Jacquelyn Anderson  
Anthony Earing Family  
Cathy Zimmerman  
Allan A. & Ramona Hann Family  
Allison and Dan Werner  
Amorin Mello Family  
Bill and Phyllis Lampson  
Bruce Kahler  
Bruce Prentice  
Carol Eloranta  
Carol Shaddy Family  
Carolyn Sneed Family  
Chris Monaghan  
Claire Barnett  
Clyde Eilo Family  
Colleen Matula Family  
Cyrus Hester  
Daulton and Wilson Family  
Deb Dade  
Denny Caneff Family  
Dr. Heinz and Janice Vogel Family  
Erickson Weber Family  
George and Anna Magnin  
George Magnin II  
Gingras Family  
Grandon and Dorothy Harris  
Jack & Sharon Stewart Family  
Jack and Anne Helgeson Family  
Jane Thimke  
Jay and Cindy Glase  
Jeff Cate  
Johnson Damm Family  
Joseph and Christine Piel  
Kathy Gang  
Ken & Darlene Raspotnik Family  
Kent & Judy Goeckermann  
Lagerroos McNurlin Family  
Littel and Thomas Family  
Lori & Brian Knapp Family  
Margaret Webster  
Mark and Megan Perrine  
Matthew Theroux & Barbara Hequet  
Mattson Rentals  
Mike & Cheryl Trieschmann  
Mike Fiorio  
Mlynarek Sorensen Family  
Paul & Barbara Baldwin  
Peter Ostlind

Ralph McCall  
Ramona Shackelford  
Representative Janet Bewley  
Rossberger Family  
Steve Muntz  
Terry White Family  
Tom Fitz

### \$51-\$100

D.Basil Edgette  
Denny Caneff Family  
Michael McKenna & Lea Rolfsen  
Robert Jr & Sondra Dunne Family  
Ron & Linda Nemeck  
John and Zoila Drost  
Anonymous  
Anonymous  
Bruce Moore  
Charles Ortman  
Chartier Oakley Family  
Christina Strom & John Dursi  
Clayton Russell  
Dan Madison  
Daniel & Elizabeth Scudder  
Dennis & Pat Musil Family  
Dr. Grace Heitsch  
Felicia Parsons  
Galilee Lake Association  
Gerald & Jane Christie  
Haugo Wyse Family  
James and Ruth Brennan  
Jeff & Mardy Ehrhardt  
Jim & Maria Minikel  
Joe Agostine & Susan Leigh  
Joe Shaffer  
John Podlesny Family  
Karl Rohlich  
Kevin Grand  
Kim Wright  
Kurt and Laurie Schmude Family  
Nancy Langston  
Ned & Kathy Zuelsdorff Family  
Pam & Gerry Richardson  
Tom and Chris Thomsen  
Town of Marengo

### \$100-\$500

Marengo Lake Association  
Jo and Mike Bailey Family  
Dick & Wendy Thiede  
Sparta High School Earth Club  
Jim & Mimi Crandall  
Michele & Jon Wheeler  
SlickRock Marketing and Design Inc  
Kevin Brewster  
Tana Turonie

Bob & Pat Tammen  
Shari & Mark Eggleston Family  
Jack & Mary Wichita Family  
Jamie and Heather Tucker  
Mark & Pam Dryer  
Sierra Club- John Muir Chapter  
Steve & Margaret Baumgardner  
Family  
Rolland & Joyce Kiel  
Rongstad Podlesny Family  
Bob & Reba Rice

Dr. Deborah Dryer-Akl & Jason Akl  
Mike and Pam Ryan  
Town of Grand View

**\$501-\$1000**

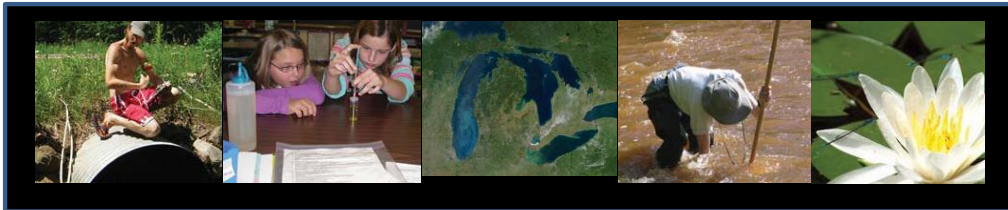
Dave Olson  
Wild Rivers Trout Unlimited  
Robert and Caryl Terrell  
Ron & Patty Anderson

**\$1001-\$5000**

Kevin & Sjana Schanning  
Jim Hagstrom  
Derek and Kim Ogle Family

**Active Volunteers**

Ana Tochterman  
Mary Dougherty  
Pam Roberts



Comment [j2]: return address, postage, etc.