

Marengo River Watershed Partnership (MRWP) Steering Team Meeting, 11/30/10, 11am-12:15pm

Present: Grant Herman and Randy Lehr (Northland College, SOEI), Ruth Oppedahl (UW-Extension), Naomi Tillison (Bad River Natural Resources), Tom Fratt, (Ashland County LWCD), Matt Hudson and Valerie Damstra (BRWA)

The agenda for today's meeting:

1. Discuss draft MRWP implementation strategy and achieving watershed community resolutions of support.

Meeting Notes

Matt and Val updated the Team on recent funding identified by BRWA to complete EPA approval process for Marengo River watershed action plan and plans for Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> Project Partners meeting and celebration at Four Corners Saloon.

The Team discussed the draft MRWP implementation strategy developed by Val, Matt, and Michele. Here's a summary:

- Group didn't have any major comments on the strategy as presented but did recognize the need for BRWA to coordinate MRWP if it is to be successful moving forward.
- Towns seem receptive and willing to provide individual resolutions of support.
- More groundwork is needed to achieve support from Ashland and Bayfield County Boards. Tom suggested finding key supporters at the Town who are on the County Board or Land Conservation Committee (LCC) in both counties to increase likelihood of County Board support. One possibility would be to have the LCC sponsor a resolution of support for the Marengo River watershed action plan and MRWP. Matt will work with Tom to get on the agenda for the next Ashland County LCC meeting, likely in Jan. 2011.
- Ruth suggested we need a one-page summary describing what support of the Marengo River watershed action plan means and that the message we convey when building support is that support of this plan is about providing more opportunities for local governments and agencies to do natural resource-related work. Ruth will provide some suggested language to clarify this message.
- The group discussed strategies for getting local governments to make MRWP a "habit," meaning finding ways to have an annual meeting or discussion of project priorities like local governments currently do for things like TRIP funding for roads. This will take some time and needs to be fleshed out further.
- Another area that needs further discussion is clarifying how MRWP fits in with other initiatives in the region (such as the Chequamegon Bay Area Partnership) and clarifying what partner roles within these initiatives are in order to maximize productivity and effectiveness of these initiatives.

Next Steering Team meeting date was not identified. BRWA will coordinate identifying a time and location as needed.

Meeting ended at 12:15pm.