

Marengo River Watershed Partnership Steering Team Meeting, 9/14/10, 9am-11:00am

Present: Grant Herman (Northland College, SOEI), Ruth Oppedahl (UW-Extension), Naomi Tillison (Bad River Natural Resources), Val Damstra (BRWA), Matt Hudson (BRWA)

The agenda for today’s meeting:

1. Review, discuss, finalize draft Marengo River Watershed Partnership statement of intent.
2. Discuss and complete an outreach strategy to build support for the plan, with focus on upcoming October 7th project partners meeting.

Meeting notes are on page 4. Here is a summary of “to do” items:

- Matt will check with Town of Marengo to insure their town hall can handle pot luck-style event of up to 50 people.
- Matt will circulate a list of talking points to use when making draft template that can be used by Team members when asking people for support (see page 2).
- The group listed agencies, groups, local government contacts that should be contacted and divided the list into who will contact who. Contacts should be made within the next week, ahead of the release of the next *Marengo Riffles* newsletter that will include an invitation to the Oct 7th MRWP Project Partners meeting.

Agency/Group/Government	Contact	Who will contact?
WDNR	Nancy Larson, Basin Supervisor	BRWA
Fish & Wildlife Service	Mark Brouder, Project Leader AFRO	BRWA
UW-Extension	?	Ruth
US Forest Service	Paul Strong, CNNF Supervisor	Grant
Bad River Tribe	Mike Wiggins, Chair	Naomi
US Geological Survey	? ask Faith	BRWA
Northland College/SigO	Grant Herman, Director SigO	Grant
GLIFWC	Jim Zorn, Executive Director	Naomi
Bayfield Co.	Administrators Mark Abeles Allison	Grant
Ashland Co.	Check with Tom Fratt	BRWA
Town Governments	Chairpersons	BRWA
Bayfield Regional Conservancy	Ellen Kwiatkowski	BRWA
Trout Unlimited	Chuck Campbell	Ruth
Snowmobile Club	?	Grant
North Country Trail Assoc.	?	Grant
West WI Land Trust	Jane Anklam	BRWA
NRCS	Gary Haughn	Ruth
Army Corps	?	Naomi

- Matt will revise and send out a working draft of the MRWP “statement of intent” (page 3). List of signatories will be updated based on interest.

Need to schedule time for next Steering Team meeting

Ideas on talking points for invitations via phone (don't be stiff! this is to get you started!)

1. Hello, I'm calling to invite you to the Marengo River Watershed Partnership Project Partners meeting on October 7th from 5-7pm at the Marengo Town Hall.
2. At the meeting we will be presenting a draft of the Marengo River Watershed Action Plan, hearing examples of watershed improvement projects that are already implementing the plan, give others a chance to share what their agency, group, or local government has been doing, talk about how this plan is a tool for continued implementation of watershed improvement efforts, and how your agency, group, or local government can be part of that implementation moving forward.
3. We really hope you will consider attending and feel this is a great opportunity not only to hear about some of the great work that is already going on, but how you can use this action plan and why you should consider being a part of insuring its implementation.
4. There's going to be food!!
5. Look for a formal announcement and invitation to the meeting in the *Marengo Riffles* newsletter that will be coming out at the end of September.

MARENGO RIVER WATERSHED ACTION PLAN

Implementation Statement of Intent

We, the supporters of the Marengo River Watershed Partnership, would like to see a Marengo River watershed that has clean, flowing water; supports healthy, diverse, and resilient plant and animal communities free of invasive species; and is a vital community of watershed stewards who take actions to care for the watershed, while enabling a productive livelihood. Moreover, we recognize that achieving this vision for the watershed can be accomplished by implementing the Marengo River Watershed Action Plan. Therefore, we approve of and we shall implement, where feasible, the recommendations contained in the Watershed Action Plan to maintain and improve the health of the Marengo River Watershed. We understand that this agreement is voluntary and non-binding.

Town of Ashland

Town of Kelly

Town of Morse

Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians

Ashland County

State Senator

United States Fish & Wildlife Service

Bayfield Regional Conservancy

West Wisconsin Land Trust

Town of Gordon

Town of Lincoln

Town of Namekagon

Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission

Bayfield County

Trout Unlimited

United States Forest Service

Natural Resources Conservation Service

United States Army Corps of Engineers

Town of Grand View

Town of Marengo

Town of White River

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

State Representative

United States Geological Survey

University of Wisconsin-Extension

Northland College

Bad River Watershed Association

Chequamegon Snowmobile Club

North Country Trail Association

Meeting Notes

Matt reviewed Steering Team role in MRWP project and focus for meeting today.

The first item discussed was an outreach strategy to build support and buy-in ahead of the next MRWP meeting on October 7th, where a draft of the watershed action plan will be presented. The group first talked about the meeting itself and ways to draw people in and make the plan interesting and real to them.

- Have a pot luck
- Keep background info on MRWP project to a minimum. Focus on “how can this plan work for you?” Go through a couple of scenarios, perhaps for a Town, or a County LWCD, or land trust, etc. on how they could use the plan to give folks in the audience a feel for how this plan can be beneficial to them.
- Have a couple of short presentations on implementation projects that have happened in 2010 in the Marengo watershed.
- Have people do a “round-robin” for other examples of implementation that have recently occurred in the watershed.
- Talk about next steps and use implementation discussion to segue into discussing “how do we insure this plan gets implemented?”

The group reviewed the two example statements of intent that Matt sent as potential for use in the Marengo watershed action plan. People felt the draft that was short and sweet and kept only the language that this was a statement of intent on the part of the signatories to do what they can to implement the watershed action plan and that they support its contents, rather than including language about committing to be part of a more formal group that will be responsible for plan implementation. More discussion about such a group or how partners can be involved in plan implementation needs to happen as part of developing the implementation strategy (prior to December 16). The working draft of the statement of intent is attached, along with a draft list of potential groups, agencies, governments that will be contacted and invited to the October 7th meeting as a first step towards building their support for the MRWP project and its implementation.

Team members committed to calling people on the list according to the table below. Here is a list of talking point for the calls. In addition, an invitation to the Oct. 7th meeting will be included in the *Marengo Rifles* newsletter, which is scheduled for release in the final week of September.

Meeting ended at 11:00am. Lots of sunshine today!