

**Watershed Outreach and Citizen Involvement for the  
Marengo River Watershed Partnership Project**  
*A summary of outreach and citizen involvement activities during the planning phase  
of the Marengo River Watershed Action Plan*  
**Bad River Watershed Association**  
**December 2010**

Involving watershed citizens in the planning process to develop the Marengo River Watershed Action Plan was a very important part of the MRWP Project. Efforts were made to engage watershed stakeholders in the process of creating the Watershed Action Plan, and to foster water and natural resource stewardship in watershed citizens through project outreach. A Citizen Involvement Team (CIT) was formed to identify the concerns and interests of local citizens related to the land and water resources in the watershed, and identify outreach and citizen involvement opportunities for watershed citizens.

Various opportunities for citizen involvement were created to appeal to different levels of interest. Through the outreach and citizen involvement activities, citizens contributed either water quality data, their vision for the future of the watershed, issues and concerns about the watershed, as well as identifying specific project ideas and their locations in the watershed. The citizen input received was translated into action items and incorporated into the Watershed Action Plan.

This report is a summary of the outreach and citizen involvement activities that were conducted for the MRWP Project, a description of the target audiences in the watershed and messages to communicate to these audiences as the project moves forward, and an outreach and citizen involvement strategy for the implementation phase of the watershed action plan. This report is also included within the Watershed Action Plan to describe outreach and citizen involvement in the Marengo River Watershed.

## **1. OUTREACH AND CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES**

### *“Marengo Riffles” Newsletter*

The CIT with input from citizens at the December 2009 MRWP Project Partners meeting collaborated to create a newsletter specific to the MRWP Project. In a rural community where its residents are widespread, or absentee, it was recommended by some local residents that a mailing piece was needed to keep landowners informed of project happenings. Two editions of the “Marengo Riffles” newsletter were distributed, one in February 2010 and another in September 2010. The newsletter was mailed to over 1,100 property owners that own land within the Marengo River Watershed. Many positive comments were received from residents that they would like to see the newsletter continue as the Watershed Action Plan continues into the implementation phase.

### *Community Events*

BRWA staff attended several community events to present a display on the MRWP Project and talk with citizens about their issues and concerns for the watershed. Certain events were also attended to learn more about land use and water quality issues in the Lake Superior Basin.

Events attended were:

- “Coffee and Conversation” at Four Corners Saloon
- Bay Area Farm and Garden Show
- Wild Rivers Chapter of Trout Unlimited fundraiser
- “Learn About Your Land” Woodland Owner Class Series
- “Critical Issues in the Forest Industry” Conference and Workshop
- Bayfield Regional Conservancy and Living Forest Cooperative Forest Landowner Workshop
- “Slow the Flow: Forests, Water Quality, and Land Management in the Lake Superior Basin” Workshop

### *“Make Your Mark on the Marengo” Watershed Map and Project Ideas*

BRWA staff developed a traveling watershed map display to take to community events as a visual aide to help citizens think of projects they would like to see occur in the watershed. Sticker “dots” were provided for citizens to mark their project location in the watershed. The “dots” were numbered and a corresponding numbered card was filled out to give more detail on the location of the project and a project description. The contributors contact information was also included so that they could be contacted at a later date if BRWA staff had questions about their idea. Over 140 projects and project ideas were submitted, and fit into one of the following categories: 1) streambank erosion, 2) road/culverts, 3) habitat, 4) education & outreach, 5) waste disposal, 6) economy, 7) invasive species, 8) monitoring, 9) recreation, 10) streamside buffers, and 11) special designation (Figure 1). The full list of projects and project ideas submitted is in Appendix A.

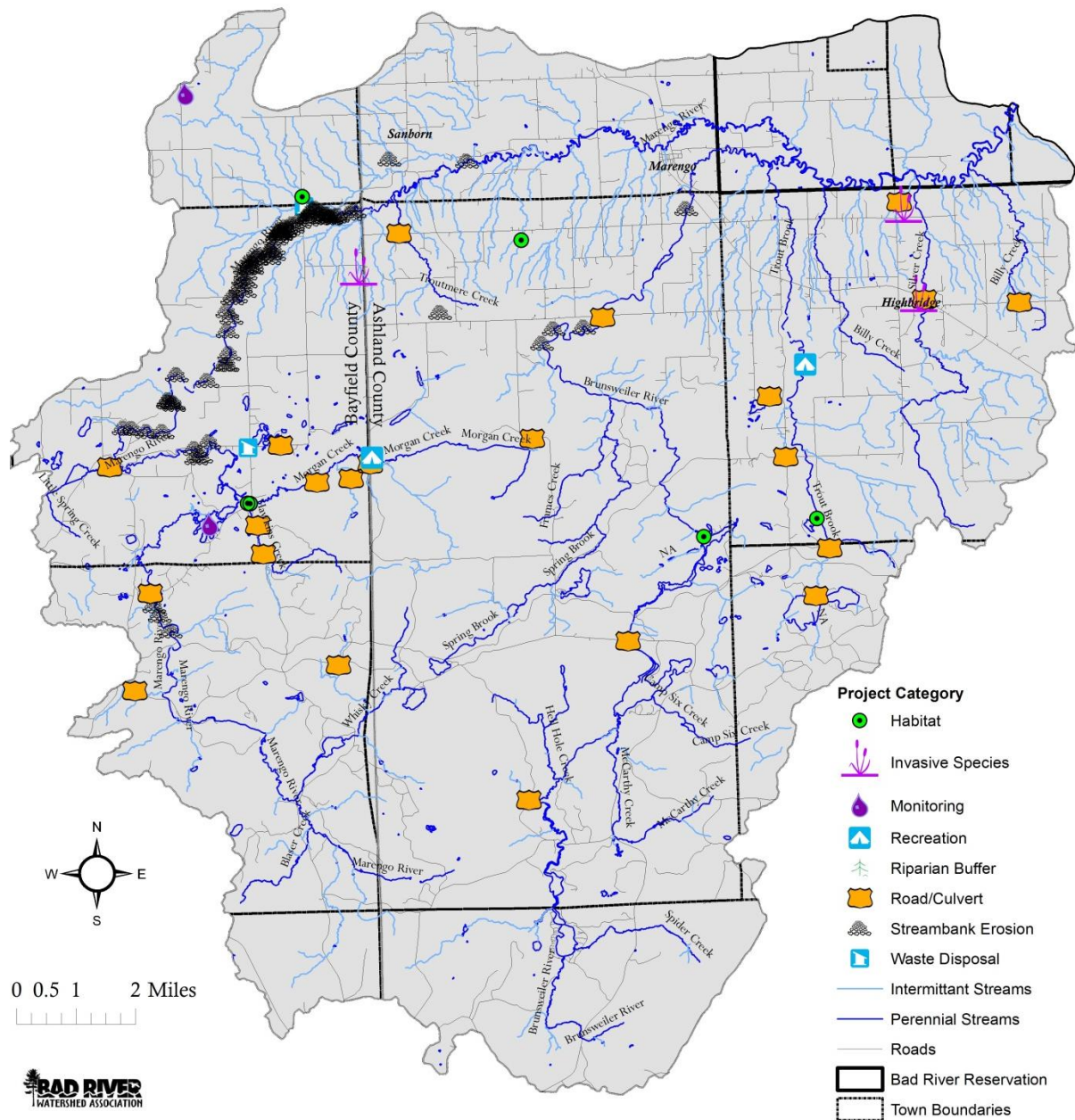


Figure 1. “Make Your Mark on the Marengo” Watershed Map with project ideas gathered via citizen input. Project ideas are incorporated within the actions of the Action Plan table.

Project Website

In the winter of 2010, project webpages were created on BRWA’s website to provide information to the public during the development of the Watershed Action Plan for the Marengo River Watershed. Topics covered on the website include:

- A general description of the watershed and the MRWP Project

- MRWP Project meeting announcements, notes, and presentations
- The draft Marengo River Watershed Action Plan
- Events and participation opportunities related to the MRWP Project
- Links of interest related to the Marengo River Watershed

The website is located at [www.badriverwatershed.org](http://www.badriverwatershed.org).

#### *Project Partner Community Meetings*

The MRWP Project Partner Community meetings were convened to work on parts of the Watershed Action Plan, and to inform the public of the status of the project. Six community meetings were held in different locations in the watershed (August, December 2009; March, June, October, December 2010). Over 180 people attended the MRWP Project Partner Community Meetings.

At the MRWP Project Partner community meeting held in December 2009, agency representatives and interested citizens came together to learn about the project and the process of action plan development. The first contributions of citizen input were gathered at this meeting through a visioning exercise facilitated by Ruth Oppedahl, Lake Superior Basin Educator with the UW-Extension. Notes from the Vision Statement exercise can be found in Appendix B. The CIT developed drafts of a vision statement and presented these at the MRWP Project Partners meeting in March 2010 for comment. The vision statement appears in several locations throughout the Watershed Action Plan.

#### *Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring and Stream Assessments*

Water quality monitoring is the flagship program of BRWA, and one of the ways the organization has involved citizens in protecting and caring for their home watershed. As part of the MRWP Project, water quality monitoring in the Marengo River Watershed was continued with the work of water quality volunteers. Ten sites were monitored on the Marengo River and its tributaries. Data was collected by citizens for water chemistry, bacteria, and macroinvertebrates.

Additional sites on Marengo River tributaries were monitored by Sharon Anthony's May 2009 and 2010 term Ecological Chemistry classes at Northland College. Students from this class were able to sample seven additional sites and collect data on water chemistry and bacteria. Additionally, a new citizen involvement field activity was initiated with the MRWP Project. Volunteers helped conduct stream assessments during "Get to Know Your Watershed" field days on the Marengo River to identify eroding banks, depositional areas, and beaver dams and/or log jams that are impeding flow on the river. Nineteen volunteers spent 12 days in the field collecting data that is used in the Watershed Action Plan to identify sites in need of restoration.

#### *Local Community Survey Review and Summary*

One tool that BRWA used to assess the interests and concerns of watershed citizens are the local community surveys that have been conducted over the last few years. Community

surveys have been conducted in Ashland County (2003) and Bayfield County (2008) for the purposes of comprehensive plan development. A survey of woodland landowners in the Lake Superior Basin was conducted by UW-Extension and WDNR (2009) to learn more about their forest activities and effects on water quality in the Lake Superior Basin, of which the Marengo River Watershed is a part. Information that was relevant to towns within the Marengo River Watershed was selected out, and reviewed and summarized to capture thoughts related to land and water resource protection.

A comprehensive report containing more detailed results of this review is included as a separate report to the WDNR.

#### *MRWP Project Survey*

BRWA developed a simple questionnaire to learn more from Marengo River Watershed landowners how they use the watershed and what their concerns might be for watershed health. The questionnaire was mailed to 1,100 Marengo River Watershed landowners in the spring 2010 issue of the Marengo Riffles, a newsletter developed to inform the public about the MRWP Project. The questionnaire was also made available on BRWA's website to respond online, and was made available at events that BRWA attended to promote the MRWP project. We received 18 responses to the questionnaire (n=13 mail or event responses, n= 5 online responses).

The first question in the MRWP Project Survey asked respondents about what types of things they do in the watershed. Fishing was the most common response for what people do in the watershed (22%), followed by hiking (18%) and hunting (15%) and canoeing (15%) (Figure 2).

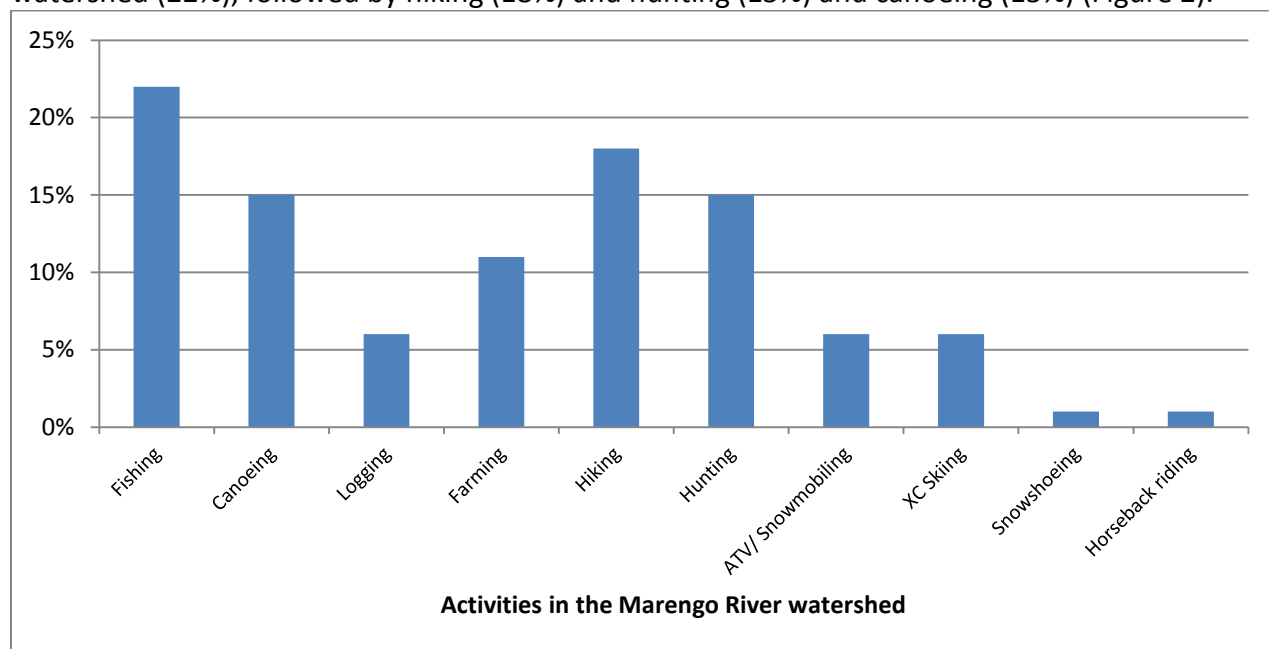


Figure 2. Responses to the BRWA MRWP Project Survey when asked "indicate the types of things you do in the watershed."

When asked about the most common water quality concerns in the watershed, bank erosion (19%) was the most common concern (Figure 3). Other important concerns were invasive species (14%) and bacteria contamination (14%), as well as degraded fish habitat (13%), development (13%), and poor water quality (13%). Drained wetlands were also of concern (8%), and some indicated flooding, deforestation, and drought.

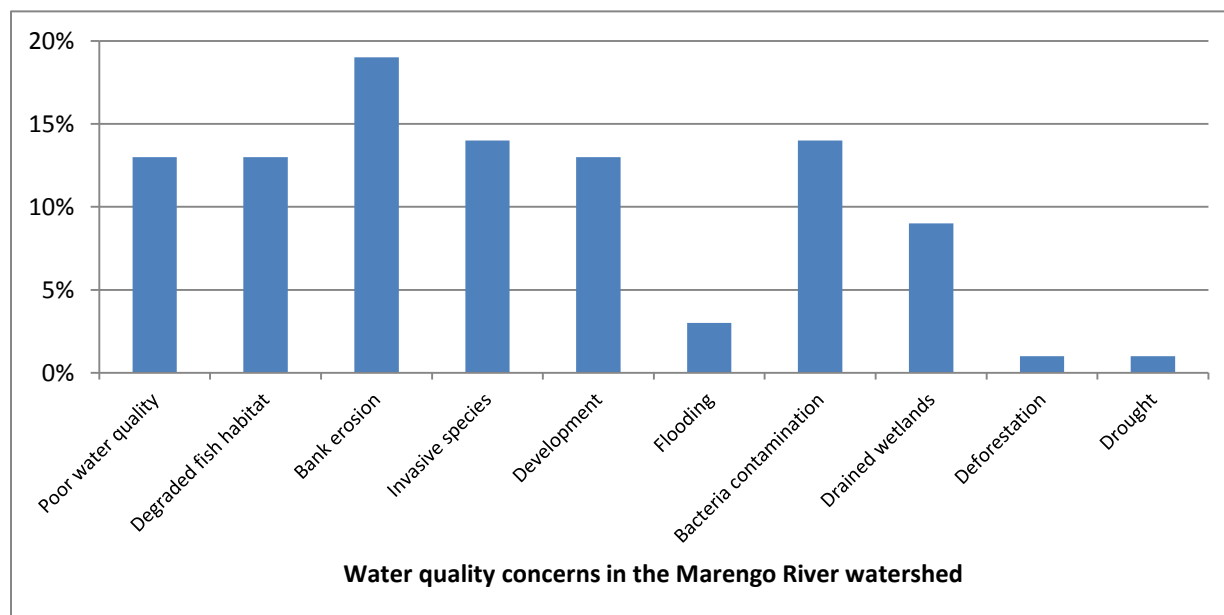


Figure 3. Responses to the MWRP Project Survey when asked “indicate what your concerns are about the quality of the watershed.”

When asked about hopes for the watershed into the future, responses were consistent with other area community surveys, and input we have received to date for developing the vision statement for the Watershed Action Plan. Themes emerged of maintaining rural character, keeping the watershed natural and wild, preserving scenic qualities, limited and careful development, and preserving or improving water quality.

Respondents were also asked to submit ideas for projects that would protect the health of the watershed. Most responses were general and did not indicate real specifics or project locations in the watershed. However, suggestions indicate support for projects such as:

- Educational opportunities or programs for farmers to help reduce chemical use on farms; also conservation programs for farmers to help keep cattle out of creeks or improve manure management
- Working with local government and agencies for stronger enforcement of ordinances, rules and regulations
- Improved help for landowners to protect stream banks and control erosion
- Invasive species control or eradication

- Nonpoint source pollution control
- Drinking water testing

An additional comment was the importance of partnering with the US Forest Service, particularly in relation to issues in the headwaters of the watershed, of which the majority is a portion of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest.

#### *Site visits and one-on-one interviews*

*Town leaders and road crews:* One of BRWA's most well-known programs, particularly in working with local towns, is the Culvert Inventory and Restoration Program. BRWA has worked to inventory and restore problem culverts that were having a negative impact on fish passage and contributing sediment to streams at road/stream crossings. This program has provided a benefit not only to water resources, but also to towns with limited budgets that have roads and culverts to maintain. BRWA staff visited with town leaders from six towns in the Marengo River Watershed and talked to 23 people, including representatives from the town boards and road crews. These meetings were held to identify town concerns with culverts or road maintenance that could be addressed in the Marengo River Watershed Action Plan. Specific notes from these meetings are included in Appendix C.

At these meetings, priority culverts were identified based on inventory data and the on-the-ground knowledge of the road crews, as well as road maintenance schedules and what the towns have planned for maintenance in the upcoming years. Issues with road shoulder erosion were also discussed and areas in need of help were identified. Another topic of discussion for towns was waste disposal. Garbage and recycling options are typically good, but tire disposal is an issue for many towns. Since this seemed to be a common issue, there is great potential for towns to partner together to resolve this and conserve resources and cost. Another potential area for towns to partner together and should be explored through the Watershed Action Plan is landowner education and assistance with septic system maintenance. Support for this at the county level differs between Ashland and Bayfield County, and so more proactive measures taken by the towns could help with this issue.

*Farmers:* Agricultural use in the Marengo River Watershed accounts for 2% of the land use, however, many of the watershed residents' livelihoods depends on agricultural uses. Farming in the watershed includes primarily beef and dairy farming, although there are some vegetable crops farmed as well. A selection of farms was visited in the watershed to identify common issues and concerns related to farming in the watershed, and to see their farming operations firsthand. BRWA staff visited seven farms (3 conventional beef farms, 3 conventional dairy farms, and one USDA certified organic vegetable and fruit farm). Specific notes from these meetings are included in Appendix D.

Generally, there is a great effort being made by local farmers to be good stewards of the land. One example noted by farmers is that many are now keeping their cattle out of ravines, unless

there is a pressing need to do otherwise. Some of the farmers visited said that the ravines are in better shape than they used to be because people are more aware. Farmers all want to do the right thing, and keep a good image and be good neighbors. Nutrient management, such as manure spreading and storage is an issue. Many farmers have nutrient management plans, but actually implementing them and getting assistance from UWEX or other government agencies is where the plans fall short due to limited staffing and budgets. In fact, participation by farmers in government conservation programs is virtually none in this watershed. There are only two farms that are enrolled in CREP (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program). The general feeling by the farmers we talked to is that they do not have enough time to learn about available programs, that the financial incentives are not enough to make it worthwhile, and there is too much red tape and restriction to get through. There is interest though by farmers in the Marengo to do conservation practices, such as restoring wetlands on their property where they are no longer farming, but perhaps other means besides government programs should be explored to provide additional options and alternatives.

The economics of farming is an issue in the Marengo River Watershed, as it is across the country. In the Marengo, economics are driving farms to change from dairy to beef. Or in the case of dairy farming, there is pressure to increase the number of cows to keep up with competition, even though there is no profit increase from doing so because milk prices are down. Also as farmers increase in age, not many children are taking over because farming is not economically viable. There is concern about what the future of farming may be in the Marengo if there are no young farmers to take over. An alternative to the more conventional farms in the watershed is the USDA certified organic farm that is operating with a CSA (community supported agriculture) model. We discussed if the CSA model would work well for other small farms in this area. This may not be a viable option for many farms, in that currently there is not enough demand for the food products. The one CSA has difficulty selling all of its shares for a year, and with multiple farms there may not be enough demand to support all of them. However, a more cooperative model (i.e. South Shore Meats, Pasture Perfect Poultry) is something that could work well for small farms in the watershed, and is something that is currently being implemented by some farms in the area.

Educators: The watershed has one public school, and several groups of rural home-school families. The Marengo Valley Elementary School is part of the Ashland Public School system and is a K-5 school that has about 180 students that live throughout the watershed. The MVS also has an active Home and School Association that brings together MVS staff and parents to discuss school activities. BRWA staff met with the co-principals of the MVS to discuss the MRWP Project and learn more about how watershed concepts are incorporated into the curriculum. Watersheds and water quality concepts are currently not covered specifically in a “water unit”, but the school is receptive to working with a group like BRWA or partner organizations to make the watershed connection, particularly as it can relate to multiple disciplines (English, art, etc. in addition to science). Opportunities to engage the students (and families through the Home and School Association) in water quality monitoring or other water resource activities should be explored.



Foresters and Loggers: Forests are a major land use in the Marengo River Watershed (cover ~75% of the basin) and thus, the management of forests plays a critical role in water quality. In developing the Watershed Action Plan, we have the goal to maintain a healthy watershed, while recognizing that people utilize forest products to make a living. As part of this, we worked to capture ideas, concerns, tools, and projects related to forestry. BRWA staff talked with local foresters and a small, private logger, as well as attended and received information at a conference in Ashland that addressed “Critical Issues in the Forest Industry” in Wisconsin.

In northern Wisconsin, the forest industry has suffered the effects of the economic downturn, leading to a number of paper and sawmill closures. The number employed in the industry has dropped from about 100,000 in 1996 to about 66,000 today. The “big players” in the local market for timber (such as Flambeau Paper, Xcel Energy, Sappi, etc.) seek to ensure they have enough raw materials to meet the demands for their industry. Because of their size, they can bid higher on area timber sales, which puts small loggers at a huge disadvantage because the larger companies have the market control.

The private logger we talked to discussed the low-impact logging services he provides to Ashland and Bayfield county clients. Despite having to compete with larger companies for work, He has strived to reduce negative impacts of his operation through close adherence to the Wisconsin DNR’s Best Management Practices (BMPs). This is a set of voluntary guidelines that have been developed to lessen environmental damage associated with logging, including soil compaction, non-harvested tree damage, and erosion. He also described his struggles to make ends meet as a “small guy” who is competing against big economic forces. For an independent logger, he has lots of overhead to cover, such as the cost of owning his own equipment. To keep up with the larger businesses he has to own comparable equipment, and with increasing fuel costs, it is difficult to cover costs and come out ahead to make a living. A niche he can fill as a private logger is small firewood cuts. He is often looking for small sales that the bigger companies won’t consider, which helps with getting some work.

In general, it seems like the industry has accepted some level of “sustainable” harvest and third party certifications, such as FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) or SFI (Sustainable Forest Initiative). While these often can be cumbersome and time intensive, they do provide a baseline for timber harvest practices. According to one forester we talked to, probably the worst forest management practices are typically happening on lands that are not federal or state forest, not in an MFL program, or not subject to third-party certifications. In the Marengo, there is very little forest land that does not fit in one of these categories, therefore the feeling is that forest management is done pretty well in the watershed.

Biomass production for fuel is often discussed and looked to as a way to revive the forest industry and contribute to more use of renewable energy. However, the current information states that biomass production produces a fraction of the amount of jobs as does a paper mill. One representative from Flambeau Paper talked about how at their mills they are developing on-site biorefineries that can produce fuel for the operations, which may be one way that may ensure the viability of paper mills into the future. WDNR has developed biomass guidelines

that recommend you need to leave about 30% of the biomass on the land to not degrade soil quality, however this varies depending on soil type. In Wisconsin, there currently appears to be enough biomass availability to support the major industries that are currently vying for raw material, such as Xcel Energy, Flambeau Paper, and wood pellet mills. It was concluded though from the remarks at the conference that using woody biomass will only be a small part of the renewable fuel solution, and that there just isn't enough available in Wisconsin for significant fuel production on a larger scale.

#### *Public Comment Period on Watershed Action Plan*

The public was invited to review and provide comment on the draft Watershed Action Plan. The review and comment period was announced in the fall issue of the "Marengo Riffles" project newsletter, BRWA's fall newsletter, on the BRWA website, as well as announced at the MRWP Project community meeting on October 7, 2010. The announcements described how and when the draft plan could be accessed and how comments could be submitted. After the comment period ended (November 12, 2010), the Watershed Action Plan was revised according to the comments received during this period. A final draft of the plan was presented to the public at the MRWP Project Partners Community Meeting on December 16, 2010.

## **2. COMMUNICATIONS PLAN**

A communications plan for the Marengo River Watershed was initially developed as part of the MRWP Project for the planning phase of the project, and later adapted for the implementation phase. A goal, objectives, target audiences, and messages for the watershed were developed as well as a strategy to implement the communications plan. Pieces of the plan were developed by the citizen involvement coordinator and discussed and reviewed by members of the Citizen Involvement Team and BRWA staff.

### **2.1. GOAL AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMUNICATIONS PLAN**

The goal of the communications plan is to ensure that citizens of the Marengo River Watershed are active and engaged in maintaining the integrity of the watershed.

The objectives of the plan are to:

1. Establish outreach and citizen involvement efforts to reduce pollution that impacts the Marengo River Watershed;
2. Increase general public's awareness and knowledge of water quality issues and watershed health;
3. Increase public participation in watershed stewardship activities;
4. Reduce pollution that impacts the watershed by providing practical knowledge to key watershed audiences; and
5. Increase citizen involvement opportunities that results in restoration, preservation, and protection of watershed health.

## **2.2 TARGET AUDIENCES AND MESSAGES**

After developing a goal and objectives for the communications plan, the CIT discussed key audiences in the watershed. Based on the current knowledge of audiences in the watershed and their behaviors, outreach messages were developed. The target audiences and messages are listed here:

### *Households/ General Watershed Citizens*

1. Watershed awareness: preserving sense of place and rural character of the watershed
2. Responsibility to care for the watershed: the water cycle, our land and water resources, and how we impact them
3. Healthy watershed for our children and future generations
4. Help protect water quality and your investment
5. Septic system maintenance

### *Private Woodland Landowners*

1. Watershed awareness: preserving sense of place and rural character of the watershed
2. Responsibility to care for the watershed: the water cycle, our land and water resources, and how we impact them
3. Healthy watershed for our children and future generations
4. Good forestry practices means good hunting and fishing
5. Controlling spread of invasive species and invasive species management

### *Local Officials*

1. Good land use decisions protect quality of life (rural character), property values, and water quality
2. Participation in Watershed Action Plan network (the MRWP)
3. Coordinate comprehensive plans and planning issues with neighboring towns
4. Identification and protection of key features and habitats: aquatic buffers, woodlands, wetlands, steep slopes, etc.

### *Farmers/ Agricultural Community*

1. Watershed awareness: preserving sense of place and rural character of the watershed
2. Impacts of livestock in streams, livestock waste, and mitigation options
3. Advantages of and opportunities for vegetated buffer and filter strips
4. Impact of tillage methods/Importance of agricultural soil erosion and sedimentation control practices

5. Opportunities for market-driven solutions to conservation on agricultural and forest lands

#### *River Riparian and Lakeshore Landowners*

1. Watershed awareness: preserving sense of place and rural character of the watershed
2. Responsibility to care for the watershed: the water cycle, our land and water resources, and how we impact it
3. Riparian/ shoreline land management and importance of vegetated buffers
4. Septic system maintenance
5. Water-friendly lawn and garden practices: mowing habits, fertilizer/pesticide use, yard waste disposal, erosion control, landscaping with native plants, controlling spread of invasive species

#### *Recreational Users*

1. Watershed awareness: preserving sense of place and rural character of the watershed
2. Responsibility to care for the watershed: the water cycle, our land and water resources, and how we impact it
3. Protecting water quality preserves recreational opportunities
4. Controlling the spread of invasive species (waders, kayaks/ canoes)

#### *Educators*

1. Incorporating water quality and watershed concepts into curriculum
2. Watershed awareness: preserving sense of place and rural character of the watershed
3. Active participation in watershed activities and stewardship projects
4. Partnerships with community organizations or private sector

#### *Tribal Members*

1. Watershed awareness: preserving sense of place and cultural significance of the watershed
2. Healthy watershed for our children and future generations
3. Participate in Watershed Action Plan network (the MRWP)

#### *Partner Organizations*

1. Watershed awareness: preserving sense of place and rural character of the watershed
2. Active participation in watershed activities and stewardship projects

3. Communicate watershed issues to members and residents
4. Participate in Watershed Action Plan network (the MRWP)

### **3. OUTREACH AND CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT STRATEGY**

An Outreach and Citizen Involvement Strategy was developed and projected for 10 years, which is the same timeframe projected for the Action Plan. Effectiveness of the outreach and citizen involvement strategy should be evaluated annually through an annual survey of the Partnership and relevant education and natural resource partner agencies. Results from the evaluation should be used to assess the previous year's efforts and be a guide to shape the work in the coming year. The level of effort is expected to change as outreach and citizen involvement activities are achieved and behavioral changes are seen to occur. A full review of the communications plan and outreach strategy should be conducted upon completion of the third and fifth years of the implementation phase.

The Outreach and Citizen Involvement Strategy is a two-pronged approach. The "outreach" part of the strategy is focused on education and distributing information, where mechanisms will be developed and implemented to educate and inform watershed citizens. The "citizen involvement" part of the strategy takes the next step, by developing and providing opportunity for citizens to participate in watershed stewardship and put into practice a stewardship ethic. While these two parts of the strategy are certainly interlinked, we wanted to differentiate the two parts of the strategy- education and information activities versus involvement activities that engage citizens in taking care of their home watershed.

The Outreach Strategy will involve passive mechanisms to reach target audiences via multiple mass media outlets. This part of the strategy can include printed materials distributed via direct mail, such as the "Marengo Riffles" newsletter and articles in BRWA's organizational newsletter and partner organization newsletters; press releases in local papers; and a website. This broader approach will focus on larger audiences in the watershed, such as households/general watershed citizens throughout the watershed. For some audiences, such as local officials and farmers, a more personal communication style is likely to be more effective, as we learned in the planning phase of the project.

The Citizen Involvement Strategy will involve creating active opportunities for watershed citizens to engage in stewardship activities in the watershed. This could include participation in the Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program, data collection and assisting with the Culvert Program, hands-on workshops, river clean-ups, invasive species workdays, citizen participation in the Marengo River Watershed Partnership, or other similar volunteer opportunities. The groundwork of raising awareness about watershed issues was laid during the planning phase of the project, but communication with households and landowners in the watershed will continue into the first year of the implementation phase. The primary goal of the first and second years will be to continue to develop awareness within the watershed of the water cycle

and watershed health, and how we impact it, including key pollutant sources, and reinforcing a sense of place within the watershed. Educating citizens on practices and behaviors they can implement in their lives which will result in improvement and protection of the watershed will be an emphasis as well. Additionally, we hope this will also reinforce watershed citizen support for implementation of the Action Plan.

The Marengo River Watershed Action Plan presents recommended outreach and citizen involvement activities with details about frequency, costs, potential partners, timeframe, milestones, and so on.

**APPENDIX A.** List of project ideas and concerns submitted by Marengo River watershed citizens, local government representatives, other partners and individuals, and BRWA stream survey locations as part of the citizen involvement component of the Marengo River Watershed Action Plan. Several of the actions listed in the Watershed Action Plan in Chapter 5 reference this table for specific ideas on project locations.

Point	Project Idea or Concern	Type	Stream	County	Town	Underway?	Submitted By
1	Replace Troutmere Creek crossing on Midway Rd.	Road/Culvert	Troutmere Creek	Ashland	Marengo	Y	BRWA
2	Stabilize 170ft. Eroding bluff on Marengo River	Streambank Erosion	Marengo River	Bayfield	Lincoln	N	BRWA survey
3	Stabilize ~50ft sand bluff actively eroding on river bend. Access limited.	Streambank Erosion	Marengo River	Bayfield	Lincoln	N	BRWA survey
4	Road floods & washes out. Move road, allow for floodplain access	Road/Culvert	Hawkins Creek	Bayfield	Lincoln	N	Watershed Citizen
5	Stabilize eroding streambank	Streambank Erosion	Marengo River	Bayfield	Lincoln	N	BRWA survey
6	Stabilize eroding streambank	Streambank Erosion	Marengo River	Bayfield	Lincoln	N	BRWA survey
7	Stabilize eroding streambank	Streambank Erosion	Marengo River	Bayfield	Lincoln	N	BRWA survey
8	Stabilize eroding streambank	Streambank Erosion	Marengo River	Bayfield	Lincoln	N	BRWA survey
9	Stabilize eroding streambank	Streambank Erosion	Marengo River	Bayfield	Lincoln	N	BRWA survey
10	Stabilize eroding streambank	Streambank Erosion	Marengo River	Bayfield	Lincoln	N	BRWA survey
11	Stabilize eroding streambank	Streambank Erosion	Marengo River	Bayfield	Lincoln	N	BRWA survey
12	Stabilize eroding streambank	Streambank Erosion	Marengo River	Bayfield	Lincoln	N	BRWA survey
13	Stabilize eroding streambank	Streambank Erosion	Marengo River	Bayfield	Lincoln	N	BRWA survey
14	Stabilize eroding streambank	Streambank Erosion	Marengo River	Bayfield	Lincoln	N	BRWA survey
15	Stabilize eroding streambank	Streambank Erosion	Marengo River	Bayfield	Lincoln	N	BRWA survey
16	Stabilize eroding streambank	Streambank Erosion	Marengo River	Bayfield	Lincoln	N	BRWA survey
17	Stabilize eroding streambank	Streambank Erosion	Marengo River	Bayfield	Lincoln	N	BRWA survey
18	Stabilize eroding streambank	Streambank Erosion	Marengo River	Ashland	White River	N	Watershed Citizen
19	#598 Culvert database, replace culvert, road floods & erodes in spring	Road/Culvert	Hawkins Creek	Bayfield	Lincoln	N	Local Government
20	Fix bridge crossing on Mineral Lake Rd., too narrow, eroding	Road/Culvert	Brunsweller River	Ashland	Marengo	N	Watershed Citizen
21	Replace culvert, Quarry Rd.	Road/Culvert	Trout Brook	Ashland	Morse	Y	BRWA
22	Erosion problem on Mineral Lake Rd., clogs trout stream with silt	Road/Culvert	Canyon Creek	Ashland	Marengo	N	Watershed Citizen

Point	Project Idea or Concern	Type	Stream	County	Town	Underway?	Submitted By
23	Eroding stream banks near Cemetery Rd. crossing	Streambank Erosion	Brunsweller River	Ashland	Marengo	N	Watershed Citizen
24	Water quality monitoring on Marengo Lake and tributaries needed	Monitoring	Marengo Lake	Bayfield	Lincoln	N	Watershed Citizen
25	Remove old gas tanks buried at Four Corners Bar	Waste Disposal	Upland	Bayfield	Lincoln	Y	Watershed Citizen
26	Wetland monitoring-keep wood ducks	Monitoring	Upland	Bayfield	Kelly	N	Watershed Citizen
27	Replace Silver Creek culvert under Hwy. 13	Road/Culvert	Silver Creek	Ashland	Ashland	N	Watershed Citizen
28	Survey/Protect native wood turtle habitat along Marengo River	Habitat	Marengo River	Bayfield	Lincoln	N	Other Project Partner
29	Purple loostrife seed source/potential treatment area, Highbridge	Invasive Species	Upland	Ashland	Ashland	N	Other Project Partner
30	Walking trail up Trout Brook-in T. Ashland Comp Plan	Recreation	Upland	Ashland	Ashland	N	Watershed Citizen
31	Beaver dams causing problems above/below Marengo Lake - restore trout habitat	Habitat	Marengo River	Bayfield	Lincoln	N	Local Government
32	Make loop out of St. Peter's Dome trail using old ski trail along Canyon Creek	Recreation	Canyon Creek	Ashland	Marengo	N	Watershed Citizen
33	Culvert replacement	Road/Culvert	Silver Creek	Ashland	Ashland	N	Watershed Citizen
34	Invasive plant control/ removal	Invasive Species	Silver Creek	Ashland	Ashland	N	Watershed Citizen
35	Sustainable/ eco forest management	Education/Outreach	Silver Creek	Ashland	Ashland	N	Watershed Citizen
36	Heritage and stories of the watershed (include native stories)	Education/Outreach	Silver Creek	Ashland	Ashland	N	Watershed Citizen
37	Plant & animal diversity surveys on private lands	Habitat	Watershed-wide			N	Watershed Citizen
38	Aid for small farmers to get started - high capital costs make it difficult.	Economy	Watershed-wide			N	Watershed Citizen
39	No organic beef processing facility in the area presents bottleneck for producers	Economy	Watershed-wide			N	Watershed Citizen
40	Would like to see farms work together in a cooperative model (like Orgnic Valley)	Economy	Watershed-wide			N	Watershed Citizen
41	Make disposal of white goods and tires easier	Waste Disposal	Watershed-wide			N	Watershed Citizen
42	More information for landowners on rain barrels, putting in greenhouses	Education/Outreach	Watershed-wide			N	Watershed Citizen



Point	Project Idea or Concern	Type	Stream	County	Town	Underway?	Submitted By
43	Better disposal option for plastic "Ag Bags."	Waste Disposal	Watershed-wide			N	Watershed Citizen
44	Make sure private septic systems updated & maintained. Needs to be affordable	Waste Disposal	Watershed-wide	Ashland		N	Multiple Citizens
45	Would like to put in a wetland on property	Habitat	Upland	Ashland	Marengo	Y	Watershed Citizen
46	Potential culvert replacement, check #443 & 451	Road/Culvert	Unnamed Marengo Trib	Bayfield	Grand View	N	Local Government
47	Culverts along Wisco Rd. frequently flood road	Road/Culvert	Unnamed Marengo Trib	Bayfield	Grand View	N	Local Government
48	Erosion issue at bridge on Marengo Lake Rd.	Road/Culvert	Marengo River	Bayfield	Grand View	N	Local Government
49	Pave before and after bridges on gravel roads to prevent erosion.	Road/Culvert	Watershed-wide			N	Local Government
50	Study restoration potential for perennial stream that flows under Cty. E	Habitat	Unnamed Marengo Trib	Bayfield	Kelly	N	Local Government/BR WA
51	Steep, eroding clay banks, can we plant trees to stabilize?	Streambank Erosion	Unnamed Marengo Trib	Ashland	Marengo	N	Watershed Citizen
52	Plant trees in ravines to slow snow melt and runoff	Riparian Buffer	Watershed-wide			N	Watershed Citizen
53	Fish passage problem on culvert, Wildcat Rd.	Road/Culvert	Unnamed Marengo Trib	Ashland	Marengo	N	Local Government/BR WA
54	Repair or remove dam on Beaverdam Lake	Habitat	Brunsweller River	Ashland	Marengo	N	Watershed Citizen
55	Water backs up and freezes over road in winter causing maintenance issue	Road/Culvert	Unnamed Marengo Trib	Ashland	Marengo	N	Local Government
56	Culverts and road floods frequently along Indian Lake Rd.	Road/Culvert	Unnamed Marengo Trib	Bayfield	Lincoln	N	Local Government
57	Check #625 Culvert database - Fiber Optic work there may have affected creek.	Road/Culvert	Little Spring Creek	Bayfield	Lincoln	N	Local Government
58	What would a Wild & Scenic River designation mean for the Marengo?	Special Designation	Watershed-wide			N	Watershed Citizen
59	Confluence of Hawkins & Morgan Creek more swampy than in past. Beavers?	Habitat	Morgan Creek	Bayfield	Lincoln	N	Local Government
60	Tire disposal on road sides is an issue - what can be done?	Waste Disposal	Watershed-wide			N	Multiple local governments
61	Large, eroding clay bank off Osredkar Rd.	Streambank Erosion	Unnamed Marengo Trib	Ashland	White River	N	Local Government

Point	Project Idea or Concern	Type	Stream	County	Town	Underway?	Submitted By
62	Overflow culvert from Bass Lake causes flooding and erosion problems	Road/Culvert	Unnamed Marengo Trib	Ashland	Ashland	N	Local Government
63	Culverts and erosion affecting Billy Creek	Road/Culvert	Billy Creek	Ashland	Ashland	N	Local Government
64	Culverts need to be replaced by junction of North York & Springbrook Rd.	Road/Culvert	Unnamed Marengo Trib	Ashland	Ashland	N	Local Government
65	Concern pond construction in upper Trout Brook led to warmer water	Habitat	Trout Brook	Ashland	Ashland	N	Multiple local governments
66	Landowner may have cow parsnip on property - if so would like to remove it.	Invasive Species	Upland	Bayfield	Lincoln	N	Watershed Citizen
67	Eroding stream bank on Brunsweler	Streambank Erosion	Brunsweler River	Ashland	Marengo	N	Watershed Citizen
68	Eroding stream bank on Brunsweler	Streambank Erosion	Brunsweler River	Ashland	Marengo	N	Watershed Citizen
69	Eroding stream bank on Brunsweler	Streambank Erosion	Brunsweler River	Ashland	Marengo	N	Watershed Citizen
70	Ravine eroding, landowner would like to stabilize	Streambank Erosion	Troutmere Creek	Ashland	Marengo	N	Watershed Citizen
71	More education of landowners on forestry best management practices	Education/Outreach	Watershed-wide			Y	6/3 MRWP mtng
72	More community events with panelists like 6/3 MRWP meeting. Farm tours?	Education/Outreach	Watershed-wide			Y	6/3 MRWP mtng
73	Make implementing things to help rivers easier - frustration with "red tape"	Education/Outreach	Watershed-wide			N	6/3 MRWP mtng
74	Stabilize eroding streambank	Streambank Erosion	Marengo River	Bayfield	Lincoln	N	BRWA survey
75	Stabilize eroding streambank	Streambank Erosion	Marengo River	Bayfield	Lincoln	N	BRWA survey
76	Stabilize eroding streambank	Streambank Erosion	Marengo River	Bayfield	Lincoln	N	BRWA survey
77	Stabilize eroding streambank	Streambank Erosion	Marengo River	Bayfield	Lincoln	N	BRWA survey
78	Stabilize eroding streambank	Streambank Erosion	Marengo River	Bayfield	Lincoln	N	BRWA survey
79	Stabilize eroding streambank	Streambank Erosion	Marengo River	Bayfield	Lincoln	N	BRWA survey
80	Stabilize eroding streambank	Streambank Erosion	Marengo River	Bayfield	Lincoln	N	BRWA survey
81	Stabilize eroding streambank	Streambank Erosion	Marengo River	Bayfield	Lincoln	N	BRWA survey
82	Stabilize eroding streambank	Streambank Erosion	Marengo River	Bayfield	Lincoln	N	BRWA survey
83	Stabilize eroding streambank	Streambank Erosion	Marengo River	Bayfield	Lincoln	N	BRWA survey
84	Stabilize eroding streambank	Streambank Erosion	Marengo River	Bayfield	Lincoln	N	BRWA survey
85	Stabilize eroding streambank	Streambank Erosion	Marengo River	Bayfield	Lincoln	N	BRWA survey
86	Stabilize eroding streambank	Streambank Erosion	Marengo River	Bayfield	Lincoln	N	BRWA survey
87	Stabilize eroding streambank	Streambank Erosion	Marengo River	Bayfield	Lincoln	N	BRWA survey

[illegible]

Point	Project Idea or Concern	Type	Stream	County	Town	Underway?	Submitted By
124	Stabilize eroding streambank	Streambank Erosion	Marengo River	Bayfield	Lincoln	N	BRWA survey
125	Stabilize eroding streambank	Streambank Erosion	Marengo River	Bayfield	Lincoln	N	BRWA survey
126	Stabilize eroding streambank	Streambank Erosion	Marengo River	Bayfield	Lincoln	N	BRWA survey
127	Stabilize eroding streambank	Streambank Erosion	Marengo River	Bayfield	Lincoln	N	BRWA survey
128	Stabilize eroding streambank	Streambank Erosion	Marengo River	Bayfield	Lincoln	N	BRWA survey
129	Stabilize eroding streambank	Streambank Erosion	Marengo River	Bayfield	Lincoln	N	BRWA survey
130	Stabilize eroding streambank	Streambank Erosion	Marengo River	Bayfield	Lincoln	N	BRWA survey
131	Stabilize eroding streambank	Streambank Erosion	Marengo River	Bayfield	Lincoln	N	BRWA survey
132	Stabilize eroding streambank	Streambank Erosion	Marengo River	Bayfield	Lincoln	N	BRWA survey
133	Stabilize eroding streambank	Streambank Erosion	Marengo River	Bayfield	Lincoln	N	BRWA survey
134	Stabilize eroding streambank	Streambank Erosion	Marengo River	Bayfield	Lincoln	N	BRWA survey
135	Stabilize eroding streambank	Streambank Erosion	Marengo River	Bayfield	Lincoln	N	BRWA survey
136	Stabilize eroding streambank	Streambank Erosion	Marengo River	Bayfield	Lincoln	N	BRWA survey
137	Stabilize eroding streambank	Streambank Erosion	Marengo River	Bayfield	Lincoln	N	BRWA survey
138	Private road may be impacting headwaters of Trout Brook	Road/Culvert	Trout Brook	Ashland	Morse	N	Watershed Citizen
139	Culvert on Fox Farm Rd. - perennial stream, drop at outlet, may block fish passage	Road/Culvert	Brunswelier River	Ashland	Marengo	N	Watershed Citizen
140	Concern about erosion from ATVs crossing Brunswelier @ Cemetery Rd.	Road/Culvert	Brunswelier River	Ashland	Marengo	N	Watershed Citizen
141	Check #597 in Culvert database - may be erosion issues to Morgan Creek	Road/Culvert	Morgan Creek	Bayfield	Lincoln	N	Local Government
142	Check #621 in Culvert database - driveway culvert may be causing erosion issues	Road/Culvert	Trib to Morgan Creek	Bayfield	Lincoln	N	Local Government

\* See tab "T. Lincoln list" in this spreadsheet for additional estimates on project costs (gravel, pipes needed) submitted to BRWA by the Town of Lincoln, 6/2/2010.

## APPENDIX B.

### Visioning exercise words/phrases, draft, and final vision statements

Word List from Visioning exercise conducted as part of the 12/16/2009 Marengo River Watershed Partnership meeting (in no particular order):

- Clean
- Trout
- Connected (no blockages for fish)
- Diversity of plants and animals
- Uncut (natural forest)
- Accessible (river access)
- Resilient to changes
- Destination for visitors
- Productive for livelihood (making a living)
- Native plants and animals
- Agriculture present
- Watershed stewards
- Proud and involved citizens
- Being a model to others (inspiring)
- Retains rural character

First draft vision statement derived from the visioning exercise:

*We would like to see a Marengo River watershed that is:*

- A community of people who are proud of where they live, care about the river, and are involved in taking actions to benefit the watershed.
- A destination for visitors because of its natural beauty, river access and mix of forested landscape and farmland that define its rural character.
- A vital, productive community where people can live, and make a living.
  
- A clean, flowing river that is well-connected for fish passage and supports a healthy population of trout.
- A watershed that is resilient to changes because of its diversity of native plants and animals.

Theme:

Vital communities (community of people that care; healthy natural communities of fish, plants, and wildlife)

Revised drafts:

We would like to see a Marengo River watershed that is a community of people who are proud of where they live, care about the river, and are involved in taking actions to benefit the watershed; a vital, productive community where people can live, and make a living; with a clean, flowing river that is well-connected for fish passage and supports a healthy population of trout, and that is resilient to changes because of its diversity of native plants and animals; and a destination for visitors because of its natural beauty, river access and mix of forested landscape and farmland that define its rural character.

We would like to see a Marengo River watershed that contains a vital, productive community of people that can make a living off the land, while taking actions that care for the river and benefit the watershed; and a vital, productive diverse native plant and animal community that is well connected and resilient to change.

We would like to see a Marengo River Watershed that has clean, flowing water, and supports healthy, diverse, and resilient native plant and animal communities; that is also a vital community of watershed stewards who take actions to care for the river, while maintaining a productive livelihood off the land.

We would like to see a Marengo River watershed that has clean water to support: a community of people who are proud of where they live and are involved in taking actions to benefit the watershed; a vital, productive community where people can live, and make a living; a healthy, diverse, resilient native community of plants and animals; and a destination for visitors because of its natural beauty, river access and mix of forested landscape and farmland that define its rural character.

Final Watershed Action Plan Vision Statement:

*We 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.*

**APPENDIX C.** Notes from meetings with town leaders and road crew staff in the Marengo River Watershed.

5/17/10, 9am to 11:00am – Town of Ashland: Mark Nuutinen, Chair, Bob Schutte, Supervisor, 2 road crew workers; Michele Wheeler & Matt Hudson, BRWA

- Michele led a discussion about BRWA culvert program and how data are collected, evaluated from fish passage perspective. Matt continued discussion after Michele left that included talking about other potential project ideas in the Town.
- Priority culvert locations identified by Town reps include:
  - #189 and another culvert (not in BRWA inventory) near it that drains a field at crossing of Springbrook and North York Rds. Also #120 near Peck farm (all drain same trib to Trout Brook). Apparently spring flow in this creek.
  - #171, 172 eroding culverts on Coria Rd., tribs to Billy Cr. (east). M. Pero from Ashland Co. has looked at #196 on Seaquist Rd. Bank is eroding here.
  - Overflow culvert from Bass Lake in the bend in road just north of Bass Lake Rd. (not in BRWA database).
- Culverts were clustered around Trout Brook Trib along N. York Rd. and Billy Cr. (east).
- Mentioned frequent road erosion problems along Schlies Rd. Rip rap candidate? Also close to Billy Cr. culvert priorities mentioned above.
- Town has no direct waste pickup service, but works with T. Morse and Mellen to provide system for homeowners to get rid of waste, either by purchasing special garbage bags that can be dropped off at certain locations on certain days or by buying or renting a dumpster. Occasional clean sweep events. They have good participation in these programs and feel burn barrel use is much lower than in past. Doesn't look like any project needs here.
- Interested in learning about resources for homeowners to help people upgrade their septic systems and holding tanks. Never talked about sewer district – homes are too spread out.
- Possible partnership with land trust to purchase easements for hiking trail proposal along Trout Brook?
- Lots of talk about trout fishing, perceived changes in climate, and how Trout Brook, in particular, has very low flow compared to past. Has gone dry in some areas in recent years. Damming of springs to create ponds was speculated as one reason for less water and warmer water (poor habitat for trout). Less severe spring runoff events might not scour stream bottoms and move out sediment covering spawning habitat as regularly as in past.

5/18/10, 8am to 10:00am – Town of White River: Tom Richardson, Chair, Duane ("Sonny") Pfeffer, Road Crew; Matt Hudson & Michele Wheeler, BRWA

- Michele led a discussion about BRWA culvert program and how data are collected, evaluated from fish passage perspective. Matt talked about Marengo project as a tool to capture other potential project ideas.

- Argo Rd. is being re-done this summer. Two culvert crossings feeding to Marengo, but neither flows all year.
- Area in trib below Osredkar Rd. has large, eroding clay bank that would be worth checking out.
- No other specific culvert sites that the Town maintains rose to the top for the Marengo basin.
- Big issue with tire disposal. Both guys mentioned that as a Town need. Could we find a solution? Talked about “maybe we could work with T. Marengo on that.”
- Otherwise they felt like garbage disposal/recycling options were good and that people were using them. Residents purchase bags and bring their waste and recycling to Town hall a couple days per week.
- Talked about how, other than the County Fair, there is no draw to the Town of White River. Poor access to Marengo River, lack of ATV or other trails.
- We discussed the issue of E. coli that BRWA has been finding in the Marengo River within the Town. A proposal for a Marengo Sanitary District was on the table a few years back, but apparently the grant available only funded part of the capital costs and people decided they could not afford the rest of the outlays along with the ongoing costs. Sonny lives in Marengo and talked about how there are fewer and fewer people living in the village and many are retired. He mentioned that people wouldn’t come to a meeting where we present E.coli data and talk about potential solutions. I got the feeling that if the right solution was found that people might listen. Needs to be low to minimal cost. The Town Comp. Plan apparently talks about upgrading sewer systems. The issue needs to be scoped out further.

5/18/10 – Town of Gordon: Matt talked with Ken Bay, Chair. Ken said the Forest Service generally takes care of road maintenance issues in the Town of Gordon in the Marengo watershed. The Town didn’t have any specific concerns around Spider Lake, but Ken gave me names of a couple resident landowners around the lake who may want to talk about concerns they have: Ed Ehman and Dan Allen (I didn’t find numbers in phone book but Dan’s wife runs the Elkhorn Lodge in Clam Lake). Ken mentioned some concern about the rate of development around Spider Lake. The Town does not have separate zoning from County for lakeshore development, etc. Also mentioned trout fishing hasn’t been as good recently and there are no longer very many suckers in the Bad River. Why is this?

5/25/10, 9am to 10:30am – Town of Lincoln: Doug Glaspie, Chair, Dan Vaillancourt, Supervisor, Carol Seago, Supervisor, Jean Barron, Clerk, Curt Anderson, Road Crew; Matt Hudson & Michele Wheeler, BRWA

- Michele led a discussion about BRWA culvert program and how data are collected, evaluated from fish passage perspective. Matt talked about Marengo project as a tool to capture other potential project ideas.
- The Town will come up with a prioritized list of projects and get it to BRWA.



- Town is concerned about two sites on Hawkin's Creek that are already reflected on BRWA's Marengo project map. C. Seago also expressed concern about a large beaver dam on Hawkin's Creek that may be affecting trout.
- Concern was expressed about the confluence of Morgan Creek and Hawkin's Creek and how that area is much more swampy than in the past. Have beavers or something else led to more sedimentation and re-working of the stream channel in the area?
- Mud Lake (a wide spot in Marengo River below Marengo Lake) was a concern for beaver activity affecting the river.
- Restoration of Marengo River is in their comprehensive plan. Would like more information on what a "Wild and Scenic River" designation means in WI.
- Concerned about development and maintaining rural character. Their comprehensive plan calls for 10 acre minimum lots and Bayfield Co. has a minimum less than 5.
- Other road concerns are on Indian Lake Rd. where the road runs through a swamp and floods in spring, road erosion problems on Marengo River Rd. (BRWA surveyed this location on 5/8), fiber optic cable installation caused road erosion issue along N. Altamont Rd. near Old Grade Rd.
- Little Spring Creek – used to be a trout stream, not much flow now. What's going on and is this a potential restoration candidate?
- Concerned about salt being used on roads to keep dust down. What are the potential long-term impacts of this practice?
- Gravel pits – they have a lot of gravel resource, but people don't want pits in their backyard. Need gravel for roads. Need to maintain a balance between these two considerations.
- Tire disposal is an issue – more in ditches than previously. Bayfield Co. used to fund tire collection, but no longer.
- Septic systems are not an issue – Bayfield Co. strongly enforces maintenance.

5/26/10, 3pm to 4:30pm – Town of Marengo: Elmer Lippo, Supervisor, Mike Mattson, Supervisor, Carl Sukanen, resident (there for 1 hour); Matt Hudson & Michele Wheeler, BRWA

- Michele led a discussion about BRWA culvert program and how data are collected, evaluated from fish passage perspective. Matt talked about Marengo project as a tool to capture other potential project ideas.
- Town has problem with creek under footbridge to Morgan Falls freezing and backing up water onto Ashland-Bayfield Rd. in winter. Bridge is Forest Service responsibility, road maintenance is Town's.
- Town receives help with culvert and bridge maintenance on roads in NF.
- Listed changes in road names or areas on our culvert map that no longer are roads:
  - Cemetery Rd. is now Maple Grove
  - Clam Lake Rd. is Fox Farm
  - east-west Clam Lake Rd. is Beaver Lake Rd.
  - Rearing Pond Rd. no longer exists – any road listed in the semi-primitive NF areas are no longer used. There may still be culverts in some of these locations.

- C. Sukanen described interest in removing or repairing Beaver Dam Lake dam so water can come out the bottom rather than the top and keep colder water in the Brunswiler.
- C. Sukanen also interested in upper Trout Brook – the quarry and rock pile blocking the stream and man-made ponds near Trout Brook that may be keeping water from the stream.
- There was interest from the town reps. on working with BRWA to improve fish passage at crossing on unnamed Marengo trib. just to the west of Troutmere Creek (prompted by Michele).
- E. Lippo is planning to plant evergreens in one of the ravines on his property. Matt asked about interest from other landowners in the area on planting trees in ravines if there was an easy way to get them. Could be a potential citizen involvement/slow the flow project.
- Tire disposal is an issue – people don't want to pay to get rid of them, so they end up in ditches. Other garbage disposal and recycling options are good.
- E. Lippo also talked about an eroding clay bank and some culvert erosion at Hanninen Rd. on a small trib. between Hanninen Rd. and Pelto Rd. Could we plant trees there to stabilize the bank?
- Comprehensive planning process wasn't very helpful to them and they don't use their comp. plan.

5/27/10, 7pm to 8:30pm – Town of Kelly: Verne Gilles, Chair, Chris Duke, Supervisor, Gerry Hoffman, Supervisor, Liz Seefeldt, Clerk; Matt Hudson & Michele Wheeler, BRWA

- Michele led a discussion about BRWA culvert program and how data are collected, evaluated from fish passage perspective. Matt talked about Marengo project as a tool to capture other potential project ideas.
- Michele described how the biggest area of interest for BRWA within the Town of Kelly may be a small, perennial, Marengo River trib. that has a couple of perched culverts along its length (Argo Rd, County C), several potential culverts upstream of Argo along an old railroad grade, and a lot of sand in the streambed that most likely limits current habitat availability. BRWA will have to speak with DNR and others about the potential restoration opportunities along this stream, but T. Kelly leaders expressed interest in any projects to replace culverts associated with a stream restoration.
- Not a lot of other potential work in Marengo watershed within Kelly. Could be projects in White River watershed though...

6/1/10, 8am to 9:30am – Town of Grand View: Howard Sibbald, Chair, Dane Bonk, Supervisor, Mark Tody, Road Crew, Gerry Sandstrom? Road Crew; Matt Hudson, Michele Wheeler, & Valerie Damstra, BRWA

- Michele led a discussion about BRWA culvert program and how data are collected, evaluated from fish passage perspective. Matt talked about Marengo project as a tool to capture other potential project ideas.

- Michele asked about crossings in National Forest that appeared to have no road to them. In general, there are questions about whether some of the old forest roads still have culverts in them.
- #381, 447, 401 along Wisco Rd. and Old Grade Rd. are all in a swampy area that floods in high water years. Duane Reppert with the Forest Service talked about moving Wisco Rd. out of the swampy area and did some preliminary survey work a couple years ago. Nothing since.
- Town has had some success with paving roads in the vicinity of bridges reducing erosion and the amount of gravel they need to dump at these locations to keep maintained. Interested in doing this at other bridge crossings in the Town such as the one-lane bridge on the Marengo River on Snake Trail Rd. at the southern-most end of Town.
- Marengo Lake Rd. bridge has been a source of erosion problems in the past. Rip rap was installed about a decade ago to reduce river erosion of road bed. Seems to be working so far but there was concern that the site could still be a problem.
- Culverts #451 and 443 were potential concerns. Should be checked.

**APPENDIX D.** Notes from one-on-one site visits with farmers within the Marengo River Watershed.

3/31/10 – Ken Lindquist, Town of Ashland

- Sold land next to what he called “Annie Creek” (2<sup>nd</sup> stream to the east of Billy Creek) to Caty DeWitt a couple years ago and she put approximately 10 acres into the Lake Superior CREP program. Ken thought she did this more for the money than for protecting the river.
- Ken said the ravines on his property and all around the area used to be bare clay and highly eroded because cattle were everywhere. A lot of the ravines have healed considerably since then, including the ones along his property.
- He has 15-20 acres in CREP along Billy Creek. He showed me areas where trees have not grown because the pH is too high. Other areas, the trees are largely taking hold.
- Cattle crossing – he is looking to repair a seep that keeps the hillside down to the crossing wet and muddy. The rock placed in the creek bed at the crossing appears to be acting as a grade control. An incision may have migrated upstream from the Marengo outlet to the cattle crossing where it has stabilized. There was bank erosion, probably the result of incision downstream near the creek mouth.
- Ken has other ravines (took one picture) that have not been fenced and cattle are still pastured. These areas do not have permanent, flowing water, so they did not qualify for CREP. He expressed interest in planting in these ravines if there was a program available to do it.
- He mentioned an old gravel pit and rock crusher used to be located at the Billy Creek headwaters that dumped a lot of fine sediment into the creek that still washes downstream today.
- He mentioned the creek just to the east of Billy Creek used to be called “Stinky Creek” because a cheese factory upstream would dump its waste into it. Cheese factory left many years ago.
- Ken has about 45 beef cattle, one pig that just had a litter of 10 or so.

3/31/10 – Charles and Clare Ylitalo

- Groundwater is difficult to find in their area just below the Penokees to the Marengo River. Clay over granite. Well depths vary greatly and sometimes water will be brackish. Yields are often not good.
- Charlie is concerned about dead maple and ash trees on his property – is it something in the soil in that location?
- They have always rotationally grazed cattle. Charlie hasn’t plowed his fields in ~30 years. He doesn’t plant crops, just feeds grass and hay.
- He fertilizes every 8-10 years or so because as cattle grow and are removed from the farm, nutrients are gradually lost over time and some need to be replenished. He knows when to fertilize based on how the grass looks.

- Were dairy farmers for years – had a manure storage pit and would spread manure on fields.
- Has about 60 beef cattle.
- Ravines along Hwy. C are a lot better now than they used to be. Main reason might be that there are fewer people farming. For him, he doesn't pasture cattle in ravines unless he absolutely has to (and then would do it when they are dry).
- Haven't participated in most government programs and made the comment that "if I can't make a living farming on my own, I shouldn't be farming." He clearly understands the need to keep his soil in the land and take good care of the land because the productivity and viability of his farm depends on it over time.
- Concerned about a seemingly increasing trend of people disc plowing fields in fall. Reduces soil moisture, turns the clay into bricks, uses more energy, causes more runoff – he couldn't understand why they would want to plow like that on clay soil.
- Wants to do a pond/wetland restoration on his property. I passed his information on to Ted Koehler.

#### 4/1/10 & 4/15/10 – David Sederholm

- Talked to David on the phone on these two dates. Was interested in building community and capitalizing on the assets we have here: pulp, paper, livestock, more atv and other trails for tourists. It's a poor area and we need to work together to be able to prosper.
- Family has lived in the area since 1936.
- Continues to milk cows. Tried some beef cattle for awhile but milk was more economically viable for him.
- Concern over how in agriculture, there are no social workers to take care of people when they get older.

#### 4/8/10 – Morgan and Caryl Peck

- Have about 500 head of cattle and actively milk about 250. The other cattle are the young ones in the process of maturing to age 2 or so before they are productive and the males that get sold, typically to veal market. Heifers are typically productive for 4 or 5 years, longest is about 11.
- Top three things you need to have a successful dairy are: 1. "feed factor" or where and how feed comes from, 2. Breeding, 3. Good management.
- They have a nutrient management plan that they try to follow. Working with NRCS on putting in a manure storage lagoon that will probably give him a month or so of storage.
- Very concerned about their image and the image of farmers in general as being "the bad guys." Try their best to manage their operation so they keep the river clean, avoid complaints from neighbors for manure spreading, etc. Try to be good stewards, but also must make a living.
- The price for milk they get today is the same as 30 years ago, which is a window into the reason farmers must constantly look at getting bigger and more efficient to make ends meet.

- They may expand to 300-350 milking cows and that's what Morgan figures is the limit for the amount of space they own.
- Made the point that farmers are not organized, but rather are in competition with each other, which limits the power they have as a group to fight for their interests.
- Morgan explained that he's not interested in rotational grazing for his dairy cows. This wouldn't work for him because his land is too spread out, and the energy that the cows would expend to get to the grazing areas would take away from milk production (i.e. spending energy walking instead of resting, where more energy can be put into producing milk).
- Had concerns about manure storage – when he gets his storage lagoon, he's worried the impacts due to spreading manure on a more concentrated time scale could lead to problems with smell complaints, road maintenance (driving a lot on muddy roads), and more manure on land than it can handle at one time. Morgan's current method of spreading is doing a little bit every day or couple of days. Doing smaller amounts more frequently avoids problems with moving large amounts of manure at once and allows it to break down better without the odor.
- Morgan explained his health management system for his cattle and how he's able to keep antibiotic usage very low due to things like sand bedding and continuous health monitoring testing data that he pays for each month. Has won awards for the health level indicators for his herd.
- Showed interest in knowing the impact that his farm may have on the river and talked about doing testing above and below it, more as a way to show that he isn't the cause of any problems.

#### 4/8/10 – Gerald Richardson

- Big concerns were: 1. How do we make sure private septic systems are updated and maintained, 2. Is there a good way to deal with all the plastic waste from the "Ag Bags" farmers use?
- Has a dairy operation with about 60 cows he milks.
- Raises his own silage and feed for his cows from his own land and rented.
- Doesn't graze his cows because he feels he would have to rent 2 times the land he currently uses to grow feed. If he had to start over, he would probably graze – just too late in the game to change now (good point for many older farmers who have made lots of investments in their current methods, may be nearing retirement, and aren't likely to make huge changes to their operations).
- Believes there are lots of abandoned wells in the area that have not been properly capped.
- Wants to learn more about rain barrels and grant programs to help landowners to put in greenhouses.
- Did a wetland restoration with NRCS a couple of years ago. Put in a pond. Waited until there was full funding to put it in (couldn't afford it otherwise- and it took over 2 years to wait for the funding). Wanted to take some of his production land and "give it back."

As a younger farmer, he needed all the land he could get to make his operation viable, now he felt he reached a point where he could afford to give some back to help rivers.

- Overall, he was very aware of farming impacts on the land and doing all he could to minimize affects on rivers. Showed us the natural buffer along a tributary to the Marengo, his wetland project, and his nutrient management system that included manure storage and a filter strip.

#### 4/13/10 – Dave Schultz

- Has about 10 beef cattle right now. Used to have dairy farm with about 150 head cattle. Economic factors drove him out of dairy.
- Works as Wildlife Damage Technician with Ashland Co Land Conservation Dept.
- Beef farming is easier than dairy, still no money in it.
- Drought over past several years has caused hay crop to be less productive and as a result, he has had to cut back on beef cattle. It doesn't pay to buy hay because you don't get a good return on investment. Better to have less cattle if you can't feed them yourself.
- Economics of traditional dairy or beef farming force people to get bigger to keep up with stagnant and unpredictable prices. Not worth the amount of work you have to put into it at some point.
- Active farmers don't have time to learn about conservation programs and can easily be turned off if they don't see the benefit immediately. Need a good salesperson to describe program benefits or people get turned off.
- The hassle involved in conservation programs often does not seem like it's worth it, especially since amount of \$ in it is often pretty low and there's often lots of restrictions.

#### 5/16/10- Landis and Steven Spickerman

- Own and operate Hermit Creek Farm, a USDA certified organic farm. Exists as a CSA with 75 shares available to the community. Also sell at Ashland Farmer's Market and have products at Black Cat, Chequamegon Coop, and Ideal Market in Cable. Landis estimates they feed about 150-200 families during a growing season.
- They have over 70 types of vegetables and fruits, with over 200 different varieties. They try different varieties to experiment with what grows the best for the conditions, or what ripens at different times to extend availability through the growing season. They also do eggs, pork, honey, and maple syrup. For them diversification is key to try and fill as many niche markets as they can.
- Started the farm in 1990 and first year of the CSA was in 1993. Farm is 80 acres, with only 9 acres being farmed, the rest is kept natural woodland. Recently purchased additional land to expand the farm another 20 acres. Land is not adjacent to the current farm but nearby (sandwiched in at Morgan Peck's land down Spring Brook Rd.) When they started the farm they worked at it part time and kept "day jobs" to not go into debt. Landis started farming full-time in 2001. Steven went full-time in 2003.
- Not sure if CSA model is the right one for the Marengo area. Biggest problem they see is that there is not enough demand by the local community to consume their products.

They often have a tough time selling all of their CSA shares and grow a lot more food than what gets consumed. Feel that it's a combination of issues, that people are not sure what to do with the vegetables, people don't cook enough or think cooking vegetables is too time consuming, or maybe too used to the convenience of packaged foods. Could also be that the people that are into fresh produce are growing their own gardens and have enough of their own. Not so much an issue of them not doing enough marketing, just that there is not enough demand. Majority of the people in the area are not the "co-op" crowd that people think.

- Discussed at length them working with local schools to bring fresh food to the schools. They have tried working with Washburn School but can't get the school a price that is within the school budget, even at wholesale price or having the students come do some of the labor. Tough to compete with Sysco prices. But, commented that at least Washburn School grows some of their own food and cooks lunches. To their knowledge there has not been the same effort shown with Ashland Schools, at the high school the kitchen has been removed and there are only warmers for convenience foods. A local parent is trying to start a community conversation about this. Steven is going to send me her contact information.
- Would really like to see more of the small dairy farms come back like they used to be, but with farmers working together in a cooperative model (i.e. Organic Valley) to help farmers be profitable by banding together and not having to have larger operations as individuals. Market price for organic milk much higher than conventional. Have talked about this with Jason Fischbach and they communicate about these ideas regularly.
- Talked about the difficulty for new farms to get started. There is a huge outlay of capital to get started with a new farm, and a lot of work. The best way to do it without going into huge debt right off the bat is to keep the day job and farm part-time. But, this takes a lot of work and farmers don't see a return on their investment as quickly. This makes it hard for people to get started and is discouraging for many. HCF does training for young farmers that want to get started to help them out. Landis and Steven have been encouraged to see how many young people want to get started with farming but it's tough to explain what really needs to go into to it.
- Watershed issues for them include the need for better enforcement of BMP implementation for traditional farms. Or, maybe it's not a lack of enforcement but lack of information. For example, have concerns about farmers that allow cattle to go into streams- maybe there are programs that can help farmers find a better water source so the cattle don't have to go into streams. Also talked about improved vegetated buffers along streams and manure management.
- Another issue discussed was lack of zoning or zoning enforcement with regards to agricultural lands. Keeping zoned agricultural lands as farmland, and not subdividing into smaller parcels and re-zoned as residential. Community needs to better value farmland and farmers. Tough for new farmers to find land to farm if parcels are all subdivided. Feel the Marengo Valley is a really good place to farm. Climate is good and the loamy soils (where they can be found) are great for growing crops. Greater value should be placed on this.



- Talked a bit about beef production and that a problem for this area is the lack of butchers. For beef that is locally raised here, it has to be sent elsewhere to be butchered and processed. This presents a bottleneck for beef production in the area.
- Also talked a bit about the process of becoming certified organic. For them the work has been totally worth it. They said it was hard at first, but they have found the process rewarding and appreciate that a third party is checking in to see what they are doing and helping them become a better farm. Paperwork is not that bad. A lot the first year but not much with subsequent years. Find the inspectors a great source of information as they travel the country and visit different farms. It's a way for them to learn new information and what people are doing at other farms. They get inspected annually to keep certification.