**MANOOMIN RST MEETING NOTES**

Wednesday, December 14th, 2022

Welcome & Introductions:

* Ambitious agenda but… **leave time for open-ended discussion**.
* Brandon – still pursuing GLRI funding for Manoomin remote sensing work?

2022 Field Season Recap:

* **Incorporating Ceremony** (e.g., last July) – making this part of how we do restoration and stewardship on the SLRE
	+ Gratitude to Tom and Bill for making this happen, everyone who was there for contributing.
* Exclosures
	+ Win – coordinating with MN fisheries to move up exclosure installation to better protect Manoomin plantings (when temps rise above 60°F, ~ 1 June).
	+ Pros/cons of the panels vs. snow fencing.
	+ Woven wire in Allouez Bay.
	+ 3-string exclosure demo in North Bay.
* Goose roundup
	+ Run down on 2022 effort.
	+ Recent press.
	+ Allouez Bay example.
* Seeding – Tom
	+ Show slide of seed totals
* Monitoring – Darren
	+ Show figures
* Manoomin Restoration Model (MRM)
	+ Example from Allouez Bay

Seed Acquisition:

* Fond du Lac efforts supplemented with…
* Getting out there ourselves (WDNR, MN DNR, 1854, FdL, others)…
* Building a network of trusted, knowledgeable, and respectful harvesters

Monitoring / Status:

* Show the density and acreage figures
* Not confident in acreage estimates – based on the aerial coverage of the monitoring grid; the actual acreage restored is a subset of the grid extent
	+ Opportunity to refine acreage estimation using hyperspectral drone imagery…?

Outreach & Engagement:

* SLRA outreach efforts (Tom was at the seeding event).
* Any insights from the recent Fond du Lac open house (Jeramy, Deanna)?
* EPA EJ Template
* **Possible documentary** to showcase the Ojibwe perspective on Manoomin restoration in the estuary
* Question: Online information could be updated? Is there a focused **website** for the project? Do we need one?
* Question: Should we try to include more members of the community in the restoration efforts? Getting Fond du Lac residents involved?
	+ Seeding, volunteer workday, listening sessions, etc.
* “Wild About Rice” event and/or rice camps?

NRD Funds:

* Close to $400k in from Interlake Duluth Tar settlement committed for wild rice restoration (loosely defined). Sense of urgency to begin spending that money.
	+ Want to focus on keeping our progress moving, expanding MNM to additional sites, increasing capacity.

Plan Update:

* Sub-committee met twice in early 2022 to discuss refining the Manoomin Restoration Model and restructuring the goals and objectives.
* Headwaters Partnership Wild Rice Workgroup
* MN Sea Grant’s SLRE Workshop – Wild Rice Workgroup
* Incorporated the idea of “Core Restoration Sites”
	+ Locations where the MRM is being fully implemented
* Developed short-, medium-, and long-term indicators.
* Indicators
	+ Maintains density targets established in the 2014 plan
	+ Scales back acreage targets
	+ Focuses on idea of “core restoration sites” – full MNM implementation
		- N. Duck Hunter, Walleye Alley, Rask
		- Allouez, North, Landslide, Kingsbury
	+ Incorporates culturally relevant indicators

Manoomin Toxicity / Consumption:

* Is it safe to eat wild rice from the SLRE?
* Early stages of engagement with Tribal partners.

MN Goose Roundup:

* Meeting held with MN DNR, WDNR, City, FWS, USDA
* Duluth Management Plan approved by City Council
* Working through the permitting process
* Control Operator Training in March