

Iron County Watershed Coalition - 2018 Year in Review

Iron County Watershed Coalition made progress in three main areas that were identified as goals for the year; (1) connect with other organizations and people in Iron County, (2) proceed with ongoing projects, and (3) raise awareness of our Iron County watersheds through community activities.

During our meetings in 2018 we met with David Thayer (Iron River City Manager), Paul Schuytema (Executive Director of the Iron County Economic Alliance), Seth Waters (Trout Unlimited), Sherl Lynn (Iron County Paddlers Association), and Doug Tomasoski (Iron County Road Commission). We provided a tour of the Dober Mine area for Senator Tom Casperson and sponsored a presentation by Dr. Alan Johnson (Professor Emeritus at Michigan Technological University) regarding the history and mechanics of the Dober Mine mitigation site. All of these meetings helped to open lines of communication and establish a relationship with potential partners.

Our projects included continuing the work for the Wild River Road Culvert Replacement (with the Iron County Road Commission), potential testing of the Hiawatha Mine for pH and iron levels (at the suggestion of Dr. Alan Johnson and Richard Sloat), the Paint River Primitive Camp Site (with Bates Township), and the development of a waterway trails map (spearheaded by Richard Sloat and encouraged by the Iron County Alliance).

The Watershed Awareness campaign successfully presented many well attended events including Float the Paint, the Iron River Clean-Up, a presentation on Yardening with Mother Nature at the West Iron District Library, an Historic River Walk with interpretation of history and current status of mining on the Iron River, the River Fest in association with the Crystal Falls Bass Festival, the Community Expo sponsored by Angeli's, and sponsorship of 2 Open Mic events at the Windsor Center.

In 2019 we will continue our Watershed Awareness campaign with the Historic Mine Tour and Float the Paint. Also we will sponsor the annual presentation of the Purdue University students regarding their measurements of water quality in Iron County streams. Along with continued work on and rolling out of a comprehensive map of the Iron County Water Trails, we hope to monitor the progress of installation of an improved culvert at the Wild River Road crossing of the Iron River.

We are beginning a new initiative in concert with Rise UP Indivisible Iron County by co-sponsoring environmental awareness documentaries and follow-up discussions of the information provided. This will be an opportunity to invite and involve more community members in the issues that concern us all.

All these activities lead to a better informed, more active citizenship in Iron County as we continue our mission *to ensure the highest possible quality of waters in Iron County by educating and engaging our communities in projects that will restore and preserve our watersheds for future generations.*

Respectfully Submitted,



Bette Premo, President, Iron County Watershed Coalition