

Winter 2013 Big Sable River Report

Winter of 2013 seems to be confused on the true meaning of winter. Extreme temperature swings have been raising and lowering the water level of the river. The good news is January precipitation has been twice normal. This is much appreciated additional flow for the river.

Summer 2012 low water levels and warm temperatures in the Big Sable caused concern of fish mortality. I know of no reported mortality. We are considering a water temperature study duplicating the study that was conducted in 2002. It would be very interesting to compare the temperature data.

We will also be working with the Hamlin Lake Preservation Society's Water Quality Sampling initiative to collect samples on the Big Sable River and tributaries of the river. I very much look forward to investigating the possible sources of increased phosphorous in Hamlin Lake in recent years. Past water quality data is available for comparison.

We will continue to emphasize the importance of stream bank stabilization projects and in stream habitat work on the Big Sable River. We are working on permits and funding for Site #28 located downstream of Schoenherr Rd. This site is the largest eroding bank remaining on the river. We are very hopeful to complete this site in 2013.

Conversations and agreements with landowners in other areas of the river are in progress. I am looking forward to announcing new areas of the river where we will begin work in 2013.

In late April 8,000 Gilchrist Creek Strain of brown trout will be scatter planted in the Big Sable River. This planting will be consistent with past years. The float boxes and volunteers are ready for the delivery of the fingerlings in late April.

The BSWRC Spring Meeting will be held April 26th, 12:00 pm, Meade Township Hall. Topics of discussion will be 2013 projects and any other topics of interest.

Contact me if you have comments, concerns or observations on the Big Sable River.

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Enjoy West Michigan in 2013.

Wayne Andersen, Chairman

Big Sable Watershed Restoration Committee