

Educational Strategies

- ✚ Establish an educational project that focuses on restoration/protection of the Sucker
- ✚ Look at MPCA website access to north shore reports like the North Shore Streams Survey
- ✚ Give information out on land management projects, (books videos, etc) helps to learn about the ordinances
- ✚ Contact the arrowhead builders association and others to implement the programs
- ✚ Duluth Township has ordinances site plan. Develop a fact sheet to explain the why and how.
- ✚ Make the water quality monitoring station on the Sucker more visible and more of an interpretive site
- ✚ Develop some visuals that explain proper techniques for things like culvert placement
- ✚ A series of fact sheets might be useful to inform and educate
- ✚ Water quality data needs to be distributed to township planning and zoning and elected officials.
- ✚ Develop a suite of options for landowners (informational sessions)
- ✚ Focus on the point of the activity (getting a permit, real estate closing) as an educational opportunity.
- ✚ Do follow up to refresh people's memories (lectures, mailings)
- ✚ Rotating lecture series- "Keep it simple, like tonight" at town halls, TU and snowmobile club meetings, builder's associations
- ✚ Put programs on public access TV focusing on education
- ✚ Use obtaining a building permit as a teachable moment- produce a guide explaining construction best management practices, septic, driveway building, runoff issues, etc. Give the why's, but keep it simple
- ✚ Series of fact sheets- on required items in SENSO assessments (Duluth Township)

Research Questions

- ✚ How sensitive is the Sucker relative to other systems?
- ✚ Beaver problem is connected to water quality
- ✚ There are significant data needs such as how many parcels are there with homes
- ✚ Need an assessment of the watershed to see where the problems areas are
- ✚ Need specific information

Activities

- ✚ Use local examples and demonstration sites, like rain garden construction, alternative septic systems, etc.
- ✚ Invite groups like trout and arrowhead fly fishing group to these events (they were)
- ✚ Go to snowmobile groups and township annual meetings
- ✚ Focus on children, a special program with hands-on experiences
- ✚ Get private landowners to use larger than minimum lot sizes.

Local Ordinances

- ✚ Use enforcement tools like the zoning code
- ✚ The fines for con-compliance with the zoning ordinances are not a sufficient deterrent
- ✚ Duluth Township will soon have a land use ordinance, use this as a starting point and frame of reference

Other Observations

- ✚ County highway engineers should be part of the process
- ✚ This project requires multiple approaches
- ✚ Use existing organizations to help with the project (Mn. Sea Grant, Duluth Streams, township boards).
- ✚ Nature conservancy may be able to assist in protecting the river and watershed with conservation easements and MN. Land Trust)
- ✚ The 'least objectionable' approach is not the way to approach this project
- ✚ Driveway building- Do it right the first time
- ✚ Make people aware that county land may be sold or transferred, this is budget driven
- ✚ Involve large landowners such as St. Louis County and Potlatch in the Sucker River project (they were invited to the initial meeting)
- ✚ Show local examples FROM THE WATERSHED – case studies where erosion or blocked culverts or bad driveways, or undersized culverts exist
- ✚ Important to explain the WHY's (Why its important you do these things, to help people understand the NEED in the watershed)
- ✚ Discuss with County the sizing of culverts, examples of under-sized culverts

Written suggestions handed in immediately after the meeting:

1. Organize to get the county and Potlatch to protect their land (Conservancy, large lot zoning, don't sell it off, careful forestry) – use folks in this group as a pressure group
2. Get a working relationship with the Township Newsletters
 - A constantly updated water quality index for several streams
 - Short articles for newsletter use
 - Possible newsletter inserts
 - Web link to stormwater data for township web site
3. Good practices worksheet for Township handouts (develop masters for township to reproduce)
4. Promote a model zoning ordinance that allows landowners to increase the minimum lot size, etc.

Suggestions from phone calls after the meeting:

1. Forest Stewardship planning: look at it from a broader perspective, take a more wholistic view, i.e., manage for uneven ages, natural variation, etc.
2. Educate public on proper vegetation management along North Shore scenic drive, scenic byways, and public/park lands.