



Pere Marquette Watershed Council

Membership Renewal

February 2011

It's time again to renew your membership. As you are aware, the Pere Marquette Watershed Council is funded totally by donations, grants and membership dues. It is only with ongoing funding that your Council can continue to meet our mission statement -

To preserve, protect and enhance the inherent natural values of the Pere Marquette River Watershed through the gathering and dissemination of information and by working with any organization or agency for the accomplishment of mutual objectives.

A few of the new projects the PMWC tackled during 2010 as well as participation in several activities begun in previous years are highlighted below.

The 30 year debate concerning Unified Management of the watershed by the United States Forest Service (USFS) and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment (MDNRE) continues. The task at hand is how to best manage the river system in a unified manner so that all areas are treated the same. Many recommendations have been voiced, discussions between the partners continue and concerns still remain. PMWC is committed to this goal and will continue to be a part of the solution.

The Riparian Rehab Program funds donated by Ludington's Dow Chemical (now OxyChem) were exhausted this year. The program, begun in 2002, utilized the \$15,000 donation to complete over \$150,000 of watershed restoration work on the Pere Marquette River. Each riparian project was funded typically with a 10% match to the overall cost. Your Council is seeking new funding so that this worthy program may continue.

PMWC partners with other organizations to expand our impact of restoration and protection of the watershed. This past year Conservation Resource Alliance (CRA) has contributed much to that partnership. Funding for, and completion of, stream crossing work, large wood debris and bank stabilization projects would not have been possible without their support. Stimulus money and partnerships with both CRA and the Lake County Road Commission provided for several timber bridge projects in 2010 that, when completed, eliminated prior roadbed sedimentation into PM River tributaries.



July marked the 19th Annual Cast for Conservation® and the 40th Annual Fundraising Banquet. Twelve teams of two fishing partners and a professional guide hit the river for an afternoon and evening of fun and fishing challenges. The Banquet, celebrating the 40th anniversary of the organization, was held at a new venue this year. Lincoln Hills Golf Club in Ludington provided for a wonderful evening for renewing friendships and reflecting on the past four



decades of the Council's work in the watershed. A historical display, with a time line, summarized the progress of the organization while

highlighting special projects. Proceeds from both events totaled nearly \$14,000, all which was earmarked for future work in the watershed. We thank

those who gave of their time and money.

Your Council paired with the MDNRE Fisheries Division last Fall to assist with the electro-shocking of fish in the river stretch between the mouth of the Baldwin River and Doc Green's. Volunteers from PMWC worked with DNR representatives for two days by transporting shocked fish to the recording stations. This survey tracked the size, number and species of trout and other fish in the river for the last of this three-year cycle. The next electro-shocking is planned for 2013.



Several years ago the Pere Marquette Watershed Council set up an Endowment Fund with the Lake County Community Foundation (LCCF). It is funded solely by donations from members and friends of the river. Through the 3rd quarter of 2010 the fund's balance was reported to be \$31,117.96. Each year numerous individuals send donations

which not only benefit PMWC, but the contributor as well. A 50% tax credit of up \$200 on a gift of \$400 is possible, with businesses having even better credits available. Seven contributors, during this past December alone, donated \$1,700 to the Fund along with \$5,100 of contributions earlier in the year. At this time, the PMWC has determined to continue to roll over the dividends that are available for distribution so that the fund will continue to grow faster. In the future proceeds are hoped to cover the operating costs as well as provide funding for Council projects in perpetuity.

The Pere Marquette Watershed Council completes work, as is possible, in the watershed based on the donations and grants we are able to receive as well as with monies from membership dues. The economic times have slowed grant funding so the amount of work we may be able to complete over the next few years may be limited.

Your help is needed. Please continue to support PMWC by renewing your membership today. And consider sending along a donation. Even a small amount will be appreciated - as they all add up. Your membership dues and any contribution you are able to give will enable your Council to continue the important work we do in the Pere Marquette Watershed.

We thank you!

PMWC is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization

PLEASE RENEW YOUR PMWC MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

Mail to: Pere Marquette Watershed Council
P.O. Box 212
Baldwin, MI 49304

2011 membership renewal form

name _____

address _____ city _____ state _____ zip _____

telephone _____ email _____

- \$ 500 Life Membership
- \$ 40 1-Year Membership
- Additional donation of \$ _____ to further support PMWC programs
- Please send me information on endowment opportunities
- I would like to volunteer. My special interest is _____