



MUSKEGON RIVER WATERSHED ASSEMBLY

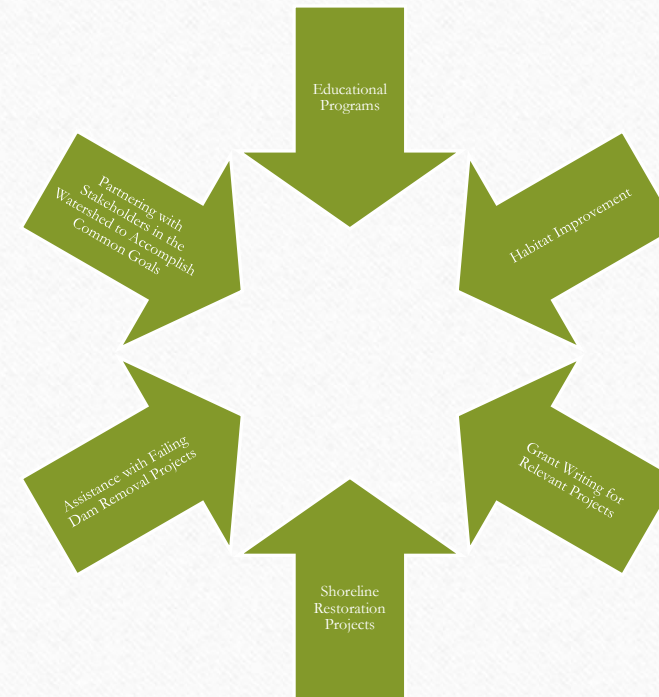
Maple River Project
Cedar Creek Township Board
September 14, 2021

MRWA History and Mission

- Founded in 1998
 - A Michigan 501(c)(3) Tax Exempt non-profit.
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- Located on Ferris State University campus in Big Rapids
 - Three employees
 - Board of Directors: 15 engaged members of diverse professional skill sets.
 - Committees: Finance, Development, Executive, Governance, and Education
 - Funded through grants, donations, memberships, events, and sponsorships.
 - *“The Muskegon River Watershed Assembly is dedicated to the preservation, protection, restoration, and sustainable use of the Muskegon River, the land it drains, and the life it supports, through educational, scientific and conservation initiatives.”*
 - Nine Counties, 219 miles of Main Branch from Higgins Lake to Lake Michigan, 90+ Dams and dozens of tributaries along the way.

MRWA Capabilities- What we do.

- Muskegon River Watershed Restoration Projects
- Scientific and Economic Impact Studies, Water Quality Monitoring
- Bank Erosion Control Projects
- River Cleanups
- Fish Stocking
- Reforestation Initiatives
- Voyage of Discovery



Restoration

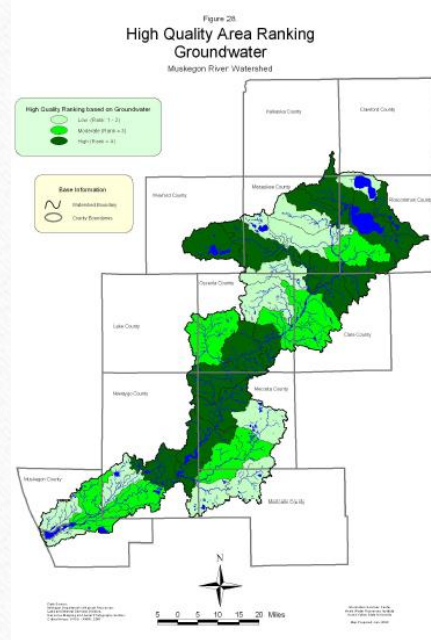


Common Goals

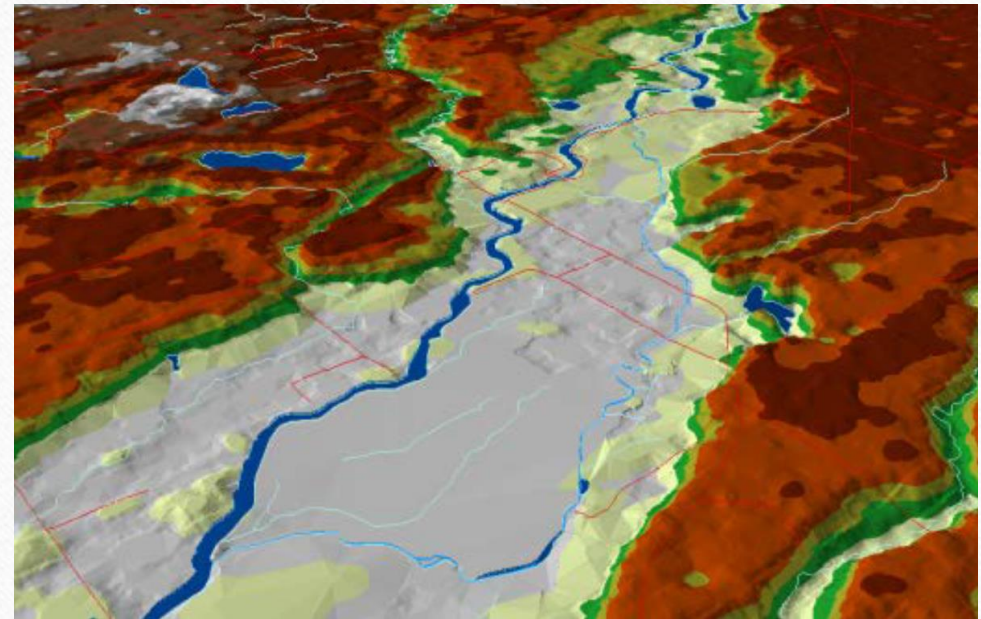


Scientific Studies

- Watershed Protection/Planning



- Maple Island



Grant Writing

- Tree Planting



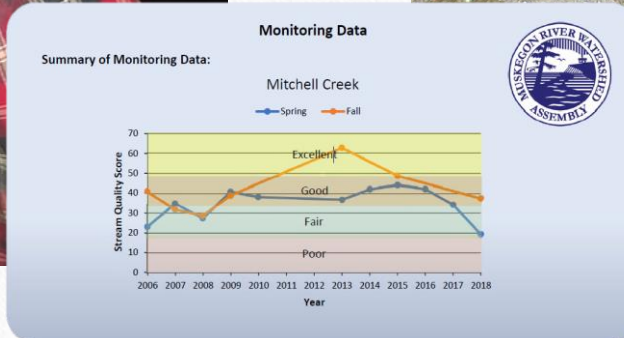
- Bank Protection



- Planning



Knowledge Partnerships



Stakeholder Meeting #1:

June 2021



Where is the MRWA headed?

- **Smaller Watershed Improvements**

- Partnering with Trout Unlimited
 - Reestablishing Trout Habitats
- Small, private dam removals
 - Altona /Kinney and Buckhorn Creeks
- Funding these projects with partners
- Tree plantings and shoreline restoration

- **Larger Watershed Improvements**

- Partnering with US Army Corps of Engineers, NOAA and other agencies
- Possible large-scale projects under consideration:
 - Maple Island / Maple River
 - Marion Dam bypass channel
 - End-to-end Muskegon River reconnection feasibility..

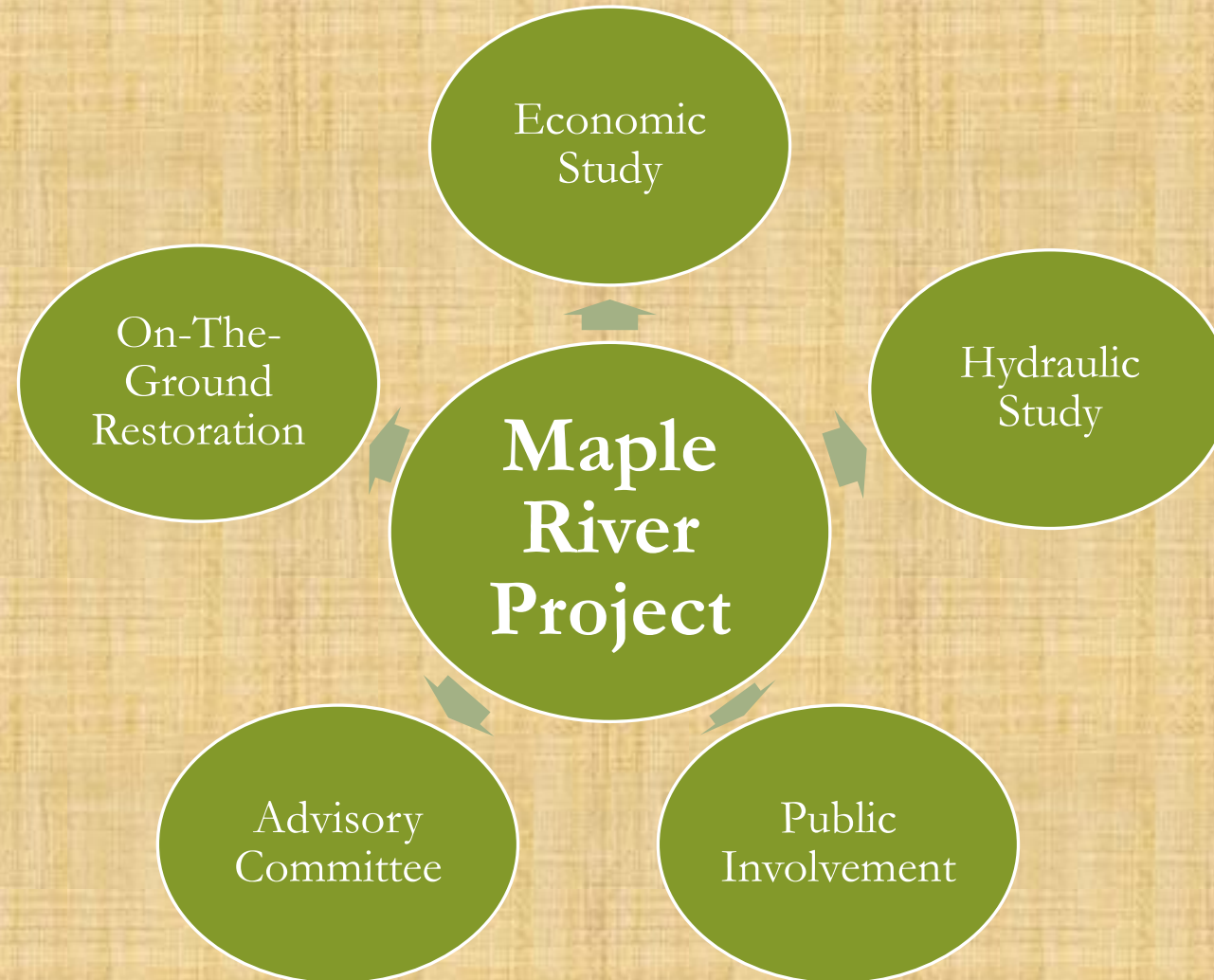
How MRWA evaluates a Project in 2021

- *Stakeholder Involvement* From the Beginning: Three Perspectives
 - **Scientific and Environmental Impact:** Is this project a net gain for the watershed?
 - **Economic Impact:** Does this project support and/or expand local economies?
 - **People:** How will this project effect the *residents* who will live with the proposed project?
- An MRWA approved project must indicate positive answers from *all three* of these perspectives, gain overall stakeholder approval, and balance the three perspectives.
- “*First, do no harm*”. Hippocrates 245 AD

How can MRWA assist Cedar Creek Township?

- Help with projects Cedar Creek Township wants and needs- Maple River.
- Provide project communication to downstream stakeholders.
 - Cedar Creek Township and Muskegon County
- MRWA can be the primary local resource to coordinate NFS, US ACE field work, host stakeholder meetings, scientific field studies, DTE Fellow.
- Coordinate Project timelines with Township and County resources.

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