



**YOUR LOCAL SOURCE FOR ALL
YOUR CONSERVATION AND
NATURAL RESOURCES NEEDS**

ANNUAL REPORT
2022

January 2023

2022 District Staff



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Kirsten Hindy
2022 Summer
Education & Outreach Technician



2022 Summer Technicians

L-R: Luke Trachsel, Liz McLean, Lizzy Brushaber, Kaitlyn Goodman, Doug Smith, Nathan Veres, Haley Dunlap, Alec Connell
Below: Denvy McCord, Sydney Hopper



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2022 CLMCD Board of Directors

L-R: Orv Kabat, Jane Bishop, Rich Hanna, Chuck Cullip, Tom Allan



From the Directors Desk...



2022 was a breath of fresh air as compared to the past two years for the Conservation District. Our office and staff were back at full capacity and a lot of work was completed in 2022. 2022 was one of our busiest years with 19 employees on staff at one point this summer, including two CTE high school students, and juggling 22 different grants. CLMCD is thankful we were able to accomplish so much this year and are just really grateful to live and work in such a beautiful place.

A couple of projects that happened this year worth noting were located in the Munuscong River Watershed with the first project being a large tree planting grant we received from the Forest Service in 2021. This grant allowed 5 landowners to plant nearly 7,000 trees on their properties to help reduce runoff to the river, capture more carbon, and enhance riparian area functions. Another project at the Pickford Township Park also happened this year where CLMCD created two rain gardens near the ice rink to capture, retain, and

filter water before it reaches the river. Altogether this project created about 7,500 sq. feet of rain garden, planted 85 trees, and sewed 6,500 native plants into the rain gardens themselves.

A new initiative for the Conservation District in 2022 was our new Conservation Grants Program. These grants provided by CLMCD were awarded to 5 groups or landowners across the District. This year awardees created new or enhanced recreation trails, planted new pollinator habitats, controlled erosion, and enhanced wildlife habitat. CLMCD was very impressed with this range of projects and is again hosting the conservation grants program in 2023 with the application period from December 1, 2022 – February 10th, 2023.

The Conservation District was doing a little bit of pollinator habitat enhancement ourselves this year with another 600 sq. feet of pollinator garden planted at the Zellar Trail in Newberry. This project was taken on by our 2022 Summer Education and Outreach Technician, Kirsten Hindy with partners Northern Natives Erosion Control in Newberry. Together our crews also worked alongside the Three Shores CISMA crews to control spotted knapweed on the trail system.

Moving into 2023 CLMCD is hard at work planning for the 2023 field season and will be looking to hire seasonal field staff to help us complete our projects. We are also working with our partners on a regular basis to find new projects and ideas to help landowners conserve their properties. As always, if you have anything CLMCD can assist you with please don't be afraid to reach out by calling us at 906-635-1278 or email us at clmcd@macd.org.

All the best!

Mike McCarthy
Executive Director

2022 District Accomplishments

- ⇒ **1,161** site visits on **63,785** acres
- ⇒ **12,948** Miles Driven
- ⇒ **334** Media appearances
- ⇒ **2458** Direct in person contacts
- ⇒ **132,883** passive/indirect contacts
- ⇒ **17,501** staff hours worked
- ⇒ **22** grants worked on in 2022
- ⇒ **Over \$1,382,465** in combined leveraged work in 2022



Program Updates



2022 was a slower year for MAEAP as our MAEAP Technician Melanie Chasseur moved on and hiring in the current work climate has proven to be more difficult than we had hoped for. Despite that we were able to host the 2022 Education on the Farm at Gordon's Produce on September 24th, 2022 with over 46 people in attendance. Topics included sessions on integrated pest management, high tunnel production, NRCS farm bill funding opportunities, and community hoop house planning.



In 2022 Dylan Parker left the forestry position and Louis Radecki replaced him as the new CLMCD Forester. Louis is originally from St. Ignace, Michigan and is a Forestry graduate from Michigan State University. Louis worked for the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for the past two years and is now happy to be back in the U.P. where his family still lives. Louis is available to assist landowners with their forested lands by calling 906-632-9611 ext. 8055 or by emailing louis.radecki@macd.org.

MAEAP by the Numbers

- ⇒ Year to Date Verifications (as of 10/1/22): 112
- ⇒ FY'22 Verifications: 0
- ⇒ FY'22 Environmental Risk Reductions: 64
- ⇒ Active participating Farms: 130

Forestry by the Numbers

- ⇒ 218 landowner contacts
- ⇒ 50 site visits on 4997 acres
- ⇒ 24 referrals to private forestry consultants covering 2,170 acres for various forest management activities



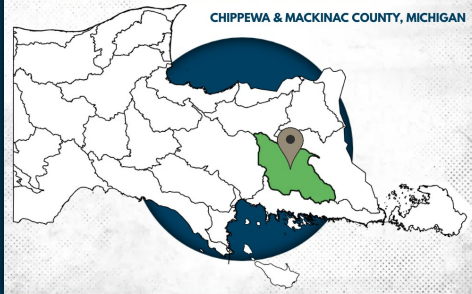
In 2022 the watersheds program continued to perform work in the Munuscong River Watershed. Work under the Munuscong River Watershed Manure/Nutrient Management Project is finishing up with final site checks were performed on 5 separate agricultural sites to reduce erosion, limit nutrient inputs, and restore natural hydrological functions. This project was funded by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and Environmental Protection Agency with supporting funds awarded by Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy.

In the spring of 2022, 5000 trees and 1000 shrubs were planted on 5 private land sites through the Munuscong River Watershed Green Infrastructure and Tree/Shrub Management Project. The USFS and GLRI provided this funding to reduce erosion, increase habitat, and filter nutrients. In addition to these plantings, roughly 7500 sq ft of rain gardens and bio swales were planted with 57 trees and 6500 native plant species at the Pickford Township Park. Green Infrastructure such as this is a great opportunity to involve the community and improve pollinator habitat. In newer news, the Munuscong River Watershed Conserving Our Waters Partnership will fund BMP implementation on 6 agricultural sites and water quality monitoring within the watershed. This new funding from EGLE will also repair a culvert on a small tributary to the Munuscong River.

The watersheds program will continue to work to improve water quality within the Munuscong River Watershed but is looking to expand its scope to other watersheds as well. 3 project proposals were submitted to perform work in the Charlotte River, Waishkey River, and Manistique River Watersheds. If you are interested in being a part of a future project, don't hesitate to reach out by contacting Jacob Hartman at 906-748-0837 or email jacob.hartman@macd.org.

MUNUSCONG RIVER WATERSHED

CHIPPEWA & MACKINAC COUNTY, MICHIGAN





THREE SHORES
CISMA

Just like a hockey team returning from a penalty, the Three Shores CISMA was no longer short-handed and back at full strength in 2022! With the support of a dedicated partner network, the Three Shores CISMA

operated under 11 grants to carry out outreach, survey, and management objectives for high-priority invasive species in Chippewa, Luce, and Mackinac counties. Through the funding provided in these grants, the Three Shores CISMA was able to employ a core team consisting of a CISMA coordinator, 3 full-time technicians, 2 part-time technicians, and 7 other seasonal staff members, for a grand total of 13 core team staff members!

Starting in the spring, the Three Shores CISMA began invasive phragmites surveys in the Lake Superior watershed and continued management of garlic mustard infestations throughout the area. As the summer progressed, the Three Shores CISMA continued survey efforts for invasive phragmites throughout the entire region and conducted survey and treatment efforts on other high-priority invasive species such as European frog-bit, Himalayan balsam, wild parsnip on high-traffic trails, Japanese knotweed, and others. Overall, just over 300 acres of infestations were treated amongst rare ecosystems (such as the Les Cheneaux Islands, Drummond Island Maxton Plains, and Hiawatha National Forest), with an additional 45,137.5 acres being surveyed. On top of these actions, a total of 811 individuals were reached through active outreach efforts such as workshops, trainings, presentations, and individual conversations with Eastern U.P. landowners. One highlight of the CISMA's active outreach efforts included our CISMA coordinator, Michael Hindy, presenting two unique talks about the work of the Three Shores CISMA at the Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference in Green Bay, Wisconsin. In addition to these outreach efforts, 24,530 individuals were reached through media publications, AIS landing blitzes, and attendance at local events.

While these accomplishments represent a great year for the Three Shores CISMA partnership, the accomplishments are only made possible through the continued support of our local landowners, partner network, and volunteers. Thank you for your continued support in fighting against invasive species in the Eastern U.P.!

Three Shores by Numbers

- ⇒ 45,137 acres surveyed
- ⇒ 300 acres treated
- ⇒ 32 outreach events
- ⇒ 25,530 individuals reached

In 2022 the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) assisted private landowners, as well as local tribes, in implementing a diverse



variety of conservation practices across the Eastern Upper Peninsula (EUP). A handful of local farms and farmers finished up installing fence and livestock water systems on land which was enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). One farmer utilized this program to install over 9,000 ft. of exclusion fencing along the Munuscong River to protect this vital resource and its tributaries. Removing access to this river also removed water access for the herd and as a result NRCS and Farm Service Agency (FSA) assisted in the installation of 2 new water wells and over 1 mile of livestock pipeline. The pipeline services centrally located watering facilities to aid in rotational grazing throughout the fields to maximize grazable forage quality.

Aside from the CRP program NRCS teamed up with two of the local tribal units, through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), to bolster historically significant food sources for the local community. Tribally sourced wild rice seed was soaked and then broadcast seeded into targeted areas in two local lakes to begin re-establishment of this culturally important plant. Additionally, a large aquaculture pond finished construction this year and will add to the tribe's capacity to rear fish for stocking in our local fisheries around the EUP and beyond.



The Hunting Access Program (HAP) was implemented on 5,768 acres for public

hunting of sharp tail grouse or small game again in 2022. These acres resulted in over \$35,000 in landowner payments. In 2022 there were 843 property accesses by 328 hunters. 2022 was again the best year our local program has seen since its start in 2014.

Chippewa County 2022 Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Program

- 107 new permits in 2022
- 237 active permits (11/30)
- 708 site visits
- 3,543 miles driven



2022 Land Steward of the Year Bay Mills Biological Services

This year we are recognizing the Bay Mills Indian Community's Biological Services Department as our 2022 Land Steward of the Year. Although the Biological Services Department exemplifies land stewardship year after year, this year, we want to recognize them for their efforts and long-term partnership they have held with CLMCD for many years.

Since 2010 Bay Mills Biological Services has been a key partner in Three Shores Cisma. BMIC Biological Services hosts its own invasive species program and has been an influential model for protecting tribal lands from invasive species threats. BMIC also acts as a leader to other Tribal Nations for their invasive species management programs. Locally, BMIC has helped guide the regional management priorities of the Three Shores Cisma partnership by volunteering their time on the Three Shores Cisma steering committee, participating in thousands of hours of combined invasive species field work and providing well over \$60,000 in local match towards the Three Shores Cisma's regional level work.

BMIC has also worked with CLMCD to promote conservation on the watershed level. In 2020 the Waishkey River Watershed Plan was completed in cooperation with local entities including the Conservation District. This plan is a big start to an even bigger mission to restore and protect the cultural home of the Bay Mills Indian Community. The Biological Services Department has continued to promote collaboration with federal and local agencies in order to prioritize and complete projects that benefit the Waishkey River and BMIC.

Another unique partnership BMIC has completed with assistance from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) over the last few years was re-establishing historical manoomin (Wild Rice) beds in local waterbodies. BMIC Biological Services Department focused their re-seeding efforts on Spectacle Lake in the fall of 2021 and Waishkey Bay in 2022.

Manoomin seed was purchased from Wisconsin and Minnesota, where it was Tribally collected and stored. The seed is then soaked until it is seeded in late September/October. The seed was then broadcast by hand by BMIC members, Conservation District staff, NRCS staff, and volunteers by kayak and canoe in both 2021 and 2022.

CLMCD thanks BMIC Biological Services Department for their partnership and for their natural resources conservation services they provide to their tribal nation and tribal lands and for their shared vision in conservation for the great Eastern Upper Peninsula. Congratulations on this well-deserved recognition!



2022 Cooperator of the Year Tim Zandbergen



Tim Zandbergen co-owns and operates a beef cattle farm with his mother, Carol Zandbergen just south of Pickford, MI as part of his larger beef operation in lower Michigan. Tim's land in Mackinac County encompasses over 600 acres of pasture, many of which share riparian area with the main branch of the Munuscong River. In 2020 Tim and his family decided to enroll the property in to the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) with the Farm Service Agency (FSA). Alongside the CRP enrollment, Tim also enrolled in CLMCD's Munuscong River Watershed Manure/Nutrient Management Project which complimented and enhanced Tim's enrollment in the CRP. Through his project, Tim remediated and stabilized 350 feet of eroded streambank and 100 ft gully, installed two riparian forest buffers totaling 1.3 acres planted with 1,250 native trees/shrubs to help filter nutrients and bacteria out of surface runoff. Tim also installed 9,600 feet of exclusion fencing, two wells, four heavy use protection areas and planted an additional 490 trees in 2022. With the final pieces of this project coming to completion in 2022, CLMCD would like to thank to Tim Zandbergen and his mom Carol in their commitment to improving the health of the Munuscong River and for protecting nearly 1.5 miles of the Munuscong River from erosion and nutrient loading.



20 Years of Service Orville Kabat

20 years is a long time to serve as a Board Director, but Orv Kabat has done it. Orv has worked with 3 Executive Directors, 9 other Directors, and over 60 employees. Orv also played a role in the transition from the Chippewa/East Mackinac Conservation District to the Chippewa Luce Mackinac Conservation District and has helped guide CLMCD in its implementation of well over 8 million dollars in conservation work in his 20 years of service. None of this should go unnoticed and CLMCD is happy to recognize Orv Kabat for 20 years of Service to the Conservation District! Congratulations Orv!



2022 Annual Meeting Re-cap

The 2022 Annual Meeting was not held due to the pandemic however, District awards were given to MAEAP Landowner of Year: Steve & Vicky Gordon, Cooperator of the Year: Danny & Cheryl Nettleton, and Land Steward of the Year: Wayne Suida.

A Director Election was held and Chuck Cullip of St. Ignace was elected to a 3 year term and Tom Allan of Sault Ste Marie was elected to a 4 year term.



2022 PARTNERS

Natural Resources Conservation Service	Dave Jentoft—Sault DNR Office
Hiawatha Sportsman's Club	Chippewa County
Grossman Forestry	MSU Extension
Bay Mills Indian Community	EUP Intermediate School District
Waishkey Bay Farm	U.S. EPA
Les Cheneaux Watershed Council	Michigan Dept. of Environment, Great Lakes & Energy
Michigan DNR	Chippewa County Road Commission
Michigan Dept. of Ag. and Rural Development	Jayne Roohr & Kristie Sitar—Newberry DNR Office
Farm Service Agency	Northwood Chalet/ Chuck Kruch
Lake Superior State University	Central Michigan University
Hessel School House	University of Michigan
Mackinac County	Sault Area Schools
Curtis Garden Club	Whitefish Township
Little Traverse Conservancy	Mackinac Associates
Sault Area Garden Club	Paradise Area Pathways Association
Sault Ste Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians	Lake Superior Academy
North Country Trail Association—Hiawatha Shore to Shore	Megan Butler - LSSU
U.S. Forest Service	Steve & Vicky Gordon
Michigan Karst Conservancy	Eli & Emanuel Miller
Rudyard High School	Adam Ingrao
Sault Naturalists	Pickford Township
Northern Natives Erosion Control	Mackinac County Road Commission
LSSU Center for Freshwater Research and Education	Paul & Kerri Thompson - USFS
D&S Forestry Services	Joe Nohner - MDNR
GEI Consultants	Hessel School House - Avery Arts & Nature Learning Center
Alger Conservation District	Matt and Cyndi Johnstone
Marquette Conservation District	CJS Fencing & Post Driving
Chippewa Co. Road Commission	The Nature Conservancy
U.P. Resource Conservation and Development Council	Les Cheneaux Community Schools
Whitefish Point Joint Committee	Les Cheneaux Coffee Roasters
Seney National Wildlife Refuge	Les Cheneaux Distillery
Michigan Audubon	Clark Township
Rachael Guth—MDARD	Brimley Area Schools
Farnsworth Forestry Consulting Services	LSSU/Brimley CTE Natural Resource Program



CHIPPEWA LUCE MACKINAC CONSERVATION DISTRICT

- Est. 1949 -

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