

**Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership  
Steering Committee Call  
October 18, 2011**

**On the Call:**

Mike Staggs  
Nick Schmal  
Dirk Peterson  
Gary Whelan  
Pat Rivers

**2012 Projects for Funding Consideration**

The Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership (MGLP) received \$90,000 in National Fish Habitat Action Plan (NFHAP) funds in 2010 and again in 2011. Thirty percent of NFHAP funds coming to MGLP are retained by Region 3 USFWS to provide USFWS support to our partnership, leaving \$63,000 in project dollars. FY 12 budgets have not been agreed to, nor has the funding allocation for each FHP. However, in anticipation of receiving NFHAP funds in 2012, we sent out a request for proposals. A group of six MGLP partners from IL, IA, MN and WI scored seven project proposals for funding consideration. The list was shared with the steering committee and the group agreed to fund the following projects (pending NFHAP funding and US FWS approval: \$65,950 request/ \$156,050 match).

**1. Fish Passage Restoration Project on Portage Lake, Cass Co. MN  
\$10k request/ \$107k match**

The MGLP Fish Passage Restoration Project on Portage Lake, MN, will result in 3 miles of stream channel reconnected (Portage Creek) and 107,000 acres of lakes reconnected (Leech and Portage lakes). The project will restore the natural hydrology and connectivity in Leech Lake Watershed. The primary native fish species that will benefit from this project is walleye, northern pike, largemouth bass, and yellow perch. This project will enhance recreational and tribal subsistence opportunities.

Partners: USFS, MN DNR, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe

Rationale for funding: high match, tribal partner, benefits high quality fisheries

**2. MGLP Near Shore Woody Habitat Restoration-Long Lake, Chippewa County, WI.  
\$13.75k request/\$13.75k match**

Wisconsin DNR and Long Lake District propose to install 30 large woody habitat structures (fish sticks) in the littoral zone on two areas on Long Lake in northern Chippewa County, WI. The first treatment zone (LWHA 1) is 1350 feet of state-owned shoreline on the eastern shore of Long Lake. The second (LWHA 2) is along 1260 feet of shoreline on a bay on the south end of Long Lake. Approximately 15 fish stick clusters or 45 trees will be placed along each section of shoreline.

Partners: Long Lake Association, WI DNR

Potential rationale to fund: Strong DNR commitment, active lake association with conservation activities over the past 5 years.

**3. MGLP Greenbelt Workshops for Lakefront Property Owners in Northern Michigan.  
\$17.2k request/ \$10.3k match**

Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council (TOMWC) proposes to coordinate and implement two greenbelt workshops in partnership with lake associations in Northern Michigan, which will educate lakeshore property owners on the importance of greenbelts to the lake ecosystem and fisheries. The proposed project is expected to result in improved greenbelts that benefit fisheries, which fully supports NFHAP and MGLP goals “to restore and enhance Midwestern glacial lakes fish and aquatic communities”.

Partners: Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, Mullet Lake Association, Three Lakes Association

Rationale for funding: First project in MI, proven track record, new partner, workshops plus 150’ of shoreline restoration. See their websites at [www.watershedcouncil.org](http://www.watershedcouncil.org).

**4. Validation of the Downstream Strategies model(s). \$25k request/ \$25k match**

U.S. FWS Region 3 staff are recommending all Midwest FHPs dedicate \$25k to validate our models. This may serve as match for an LCC-funding proposal and/or pooled with other Midwest FHPs to validate all Midwest models. We should I.D. additional opportunities with other partners (e.g., regional climate centers).

Thanks to the scoring team: Kelly Deem, Lake County IL; George Scholten, IA DNR; Kristen Blann, The Nature Conservancy of MN; John Haack, Univ. of WI Extension; Carroll Schaal, WI DNR; Pat Rivers, MGLP Coordinator.

**Emailed comments received from MGLP Steering Committee members:**

**Bill James**

I support your suggestions for funding the four projects. The first two appear (Portage Lake and MI Greenbelt workshops) to be solid projects with multiple benefits and good value for the limited MGLP funds. The \$25k to validate the Downstream Strategies models appears to be a good leveraging of funds and is a necessary step in the process. I’m less sure about the proposed use of \$15k to update our strategic plan based on the assessments, mainly because I don’t know how urgent this is (in other words, how soon would we undertake and complete this update?). I do note that the amount would fund or come close to funding an additional on-the-ground project (Wolf River or woody habitat restoration in Wisconsin). I can live with either the strategic plan or one of the other project.

**John Lott**

Some good projects were submitted Pat. I am comfortable with your recommendations for funding. Is the MGLP still working off of \$90,000 for projects or is part of this money being used to fund the MGLP Manager position or USFWS Region 3 overhead?

**Barb Pardo**

I concur with your top 4 suggested proposals for funding. I attended a demonstration by Maureen Gallagher of the FHP assessment tool in development, and I think it will be a very useful decision tool

that could be used by a variety of partners, with additional possible model inputs (e.g. bird response) for future versions. I think the LCCs should get very excited about this!

### **Joe Ferencak**

I concur with your preliminary project suggestions for funding, however I talked to Kelly Deem and she does have some concerns which I agree with regarding the MGLP Greenbelt Workshops project in Northern Michigan relative to the cost/benefit in terms of the audience numbers it will reach and relatively low match. While I realize NFHAP places some emphasis on outreach/education projects that convey our message, perhaps one of the “on the ground” lake (vs. river) habitat/fish sticks restoration projects would be a better choice in this case.

### **Ron Payer, Fundraising, and Showcase Projects**

Ron Payer, retired MN DNR Fisheries Chief, volunteered his time to the MGLP in some capacity. One potential option is for Ron to explore how to fund a suite of showcase projects from across MGLP states. This could be done by 1) forming a 501 c3 and seeking funding directly as some FHPs are doing (e.g., Reservoirs FHP) or 2) more aggressively applying for other non-profit funding opportunities (e.g., National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Great Lake Restoration Initiative “Areas of Concern”, Gillette Foundation). Over the past three years, MGLP has applied for a number of grants with limited success.

**ACTION ITEM: Pat will talk with Ron about how Ron would like to best use his time for the partnership.**

### **Meeting at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, Des Moines, IA December 4-7, 2011**

After a short discussion, it was agreed the partnership will have a number of items to discuss and the Midwest F&W Conference does provide a venue in which to meet. We should host a meeting and make arrangements for a conference call for those that cannot travel. It should not conflict with the NCD Excom meeting (Sunday, 9:00-12:00).

A meeting room has been reserved for Sunday afternoon.