

The rainfall of June 12/13th is certainly the topic of discussion this summer. With confirmed reports of 11" of rain in 12 hours the entire watershed was stressed by this event.

On the Big Sable, bridge approaches received the major damage. LaSalle Rd, US-31 and Darr Rd were the most affected by the rain. LaSalle Rd remains out of service for the remainder of this year. LaSalle Rd and Darr Rd have been identified in recent years as the road crossings in need of significant upgrading to stop sedimentation of the river. Darr Rd Bridge will be rebuilt in 2010.

Culverts on several of the tributaries of the Big Sable were completely washed out.

Repairs to all effected road crossings are in progress of permitting, funding or field work. This is an opportunity to upgrade the road crossings to eliminate sedimentation at these locations.

My personal observations following the rain event is that all stream bank stabilization projects that have been completed in past years stayed intact and prevented large scale sedimentation of the river. Woody Debris (logs, stumps etc.) has been pushed into the stream banks and some out of the river leaving the main channel relatively clear of obstructions. Locations of sand bars has changed. Some gravel has been covered by sand and some gravel has been exposed.

I am certain the smaller fish have suffered high mortality rates. This would be my major concern at this time. Losing 1-2 year old wild fish would impact the fishery.

I am confident the river system has held up quite well.

The rain event has slowed down field work on the projects that we have planned for 2008. We remain confident that the 2 remaining severe erosion sites documented in the 2006 Stream Bank Inventory will be completed this year. We are also on track for Large Woody Debris work to be completed at 2 locations.

Our two fund raising efforts were very successful this year.

The Canoe Raffle netted nearly \$6,000.00. HLPs Members individually purchased many of the raffle tickets to support this important fund raising event.

The Youth Fly Fishing Seminar was enjoyed by the 17 youths who attended on August 9th. This event is free for the youth. Sponsors of this event donated nearly \$2,000.00 to restoration work on the river. Ray Schmidt and his staff at Schmidt Outfitters in Wellston donated their time and facility to make this event a great success.

I would like to sincerely thank everyone who has supported our fund raising efforts this summer. These funds will be used to match available grants and leverage our funds to enhance and preserve the river.

While publicly displaying the Canoe Raffle I had the opportunity to talk to many people from outside this area who purchased tickets and were happy to help support the Big Sable River. I was so impressed with their admiration of the Mason County Area Natural Resources.

The conversations I had with these people reinforced my own appreciation of the Big Sable River and Hamlin Lake.

Enjoy the natural resources we have this fall.