



## SBCI Monthly Meeting Notes – July 18, 2013

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 1:11 p.m. by Cyndi Gaul.

### **Bird Trail Project:**

A report was given by Zachary Branigan from the Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy (SBLC) on the Bird Trail Project. There are over 142 miles of automobile route for the bird trail. Our area is perfect for bird habitat and our watershed area makes this a great location for bird watching. Birds indicate a healthy eco system and there are a wide variety of birds that can be identified here. The Bird Trail Project is a positive way to highlight our area.

There are four (4) key components to this project:

1. **Website:** Creation of a website for the Bird Trail Project. They are in the process of merging with the already existing [www.saginawbaybirding.org](http://www.saginawbaybirding.org) website.
2. **Physical Signage:** There is a \$5,000 grant being used to create signage for the Bird Trail Project. The signs will be metal and should be going up over the next few months.
3. **Field Guide Map:** There is money to create approximately 10,000 copies of a field guide map for the Bird Trail Project.
4. **Viewing Areas:** There is a need to find some actual locations for people to view birds along the bird trail. The group is currently looking at a few areas that can be rebranded as nature preserves and fixed up.

The Bird Trail Project is a low cost project and it will make the SBLC much more visible in the community. The SBLC is in the process of drafting a new Master Plan to include community benefits within the watershed. There will be a summit planning meeting in order to gain insight. Committees will be created for the Master Plan, so anyone interested should contact the SBLC.

### **Blueways Trail Project:**

Don Hamilton of Lapham Associates/Arenac County Parks & Recreation gave an overview of the Blueways Trail in his area. Both Arenac and Bay Counties received CZM Grants for the Blueways Trail Project. Arenac County is in the process of developing a plan for the access sites, determining the feasibility of each of those sites, and determining how best to access the sites. Bay County will be helping with the mapping of the Blueways Trail for both Arenac and Bay Counties. Signage for this project should be going up soon. Mr. Hamilton would like to see a small group created to develop the marketing for this project.



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### **Phragmites Treatment:**

There was a brief discussion about the Phragmites Treatment taking place in Bay County. There are some new and proposed Phragmites treatment areas. There will be treatment in northern Bay County along the shoreline. Arenac County is also going to be doing treatment along their southern portion of the county. Zachary Branigan mentioned that the SBLC will also be doing some phragmites treatment.

Jim Hergott of Saginaw Bay Resource, Conservation & Development (RC&D) discussed the additional phragmites treatment that Their organization will be doing in Arenac, Bay, Huron and Tuscola Counties. They are in the process of creating a website data base for the phragmites treatment areas. There will be a Summer Saginaw Bay RC&D Meeting on August 22, 2013 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Thumb Octagon Barn, 6948 Richie Road, Gagetown, Michigan 48735. The cost for this meeting is \$10/person. This is a meeting where attendees, including sponsors, agencies and other partners will have the opportunity to hear what the organization is doing and the opportunity to let others know what they are doing to promote collaboration between groups. For more information please check out the Saginaw Bay RC&D website at [www.saginawbayrcd.org](http://www.saginawbayrcd.org).

### **BaySail & Appledore:**

BaySail is offering an opportunity for community stakeholders to sail with them. There are designated dates for the free sails that are open to community leaders, educators, boaters, landowners and other interested parties are invited to sail aboard the schooner Appledore IV as BaySail raises awareness of current environmental issues and promotes environmental stewardship of the Great Lakes. They can accommodate group sizes up to 35. There are six more sails open. Contact Greg Allington 989-895-5193 for more information.

As there was no further business, the July 18, 2013 SBCI meeting was adjourned at 2:12 p.m.

The next SBCI Meeting will be on **Thursday, August 15<sup>th</sup>** from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Bay County Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Old Chambers, 515 Center Avenue, Bay City, Michigan.