



Celebrating over 60 Years of Natural Resource Stewardship

## MARQUETTE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

### 5-YEAR PLAN OF WORK

October 2016 – September 2021

*The mission of the Marquette County Conservation District is to provide for the conservation and restoration of resources in Marquette County through forestry and wildlife practices, watershed management, soil erosion control programs and education.*

[www.marquettecd.com](http://www.marquettecd.com)



*We are an equal opportunity employer and program provider*

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## List of Acronyms

ABC	American Bird Conservancy
RCP	Resource Conservation Partnership Program
CTA	Conservation Technical Assistance
CUPCWMA	Central Upper Peninsula Cooperative Weed Management Area
DNR	Department of Natural Resources
FAP	Forestry Assistance Program
MACD	Michigan Association of Conservation Districts
MAEAP	Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program
MCCD	Marquette County Conservation District
MDARD	Michigan Department of agriculture and Rural Development
NIPF	Non industrialize Private Forest (landowners))
NRCS	Natural resource=s Conservation Service
PWPL	Peter White Public Library
UPRC&D	Upper Peninsula Resource and Development Council
USFWS	Unites States Fish and Wildlife Service
USFS	United States Forest Service

# Marquette County Conservation District

## Executive Summary

The Marquette County Conservation District (MCCD) provides programs (Forest & Wildlife Management Assistance Program, Soil Erosion & Sedimentation Control Program, Watershed Program, Native Plants Program, Agricultural Assistance, Farm Bill Programs, Social Media and Invasive Species, Technology, Michigan Groundwater Stewardship Program and Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program) that are available to area landowners, organizations, communities and governmental units. The MCCD works closely with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD), Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) and Upper Peninsula Resource Conservation and Development (UPRC&D) to provide long-range planning in solving resource issues.

Landowners, natural resource users, organizations and governmental units look to the MCCD for a non-biased guide on conservation issues. Working with our partners and through implementation of MCCD programs, the MCCD will address environmental concerns in Marquette County in a proactive manner.

### MCCD Goals

#### October 2016 - September 2021

- Millage
- Pay increases for grant programs
- Work with landowners, resource users, communities, local, state, and federal agencies to promote balanced conservation of our natural resources.
- Create stronger relationships with local, state and federal legislators.
- Promote the Groundwater program using MAEAP staff, MCCD board of directors, staff and interns.
- Provide educational and technical assistance to pesticide and fertilizer users to prevent and reduce groundwater contamination.
- To increase public awareness of invasive species identification and control (both aquatic and terrestrial.)
- Offer native trees, shrubs and other plants for conservation plantings and restoration efforts at the annual spring plant sale and spring & fall plant sales.
- Seek opportunities to enhance the native plant program by propagating and collecting native seed, creating a seed bank, rescuing native plants and expanding varieties of species grown for restoration projects and general public.
- Provide county-wide watershed assistance to all townships, cities and interested groups and persons in Marquette County.
- Establish watershed councils and lake associations in area watersheds currently lacking councils by working with individual land owner lake associations.
- Gain support (including financial) from county, townships, cities and interested groups in the county for the county-wide conservation programs including watershed programs.
- Support and seek sustainable funding for District Forester in implementation of Forestry Assistance Program.
- Seek renewed financial support from Marquette County through the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Natural Resource and Conservation Development, and Marquette

County Board of Commissioners and Forestry Commission.

- Work cooperatively with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services, Upper Peninsula Resource Conservation and Development, Northern Michigan University, Audubon, Michigan Natural Features Inventory, USDA Forest Service, National Park Service, Hiawatha National Forest Native Plants Program, CUPCWMA, and other Invasive Species Program(s).
- Continue with the distribution of conservation districts education, activities and landowner cost share programs through contributions to news articles, site visits, workshops and posting information on our website and Facebook page.
- Seek new partnerships with area groups such as, but not limited to, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, Sierra Club, Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition, North Star Academy, Marquette Area Public Schools, Marquette Alger Regional Education Service Agency, Alternative High School, Noquemanon Trail Network, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community College, Marquette Regional Historical Society and more.
- Seek additional funding through traditional funding sources and corporate sponsors for public education and district promotion.
- Provide CTA and support to the Michigan Association of Conservation Districts in order to reach their strategic planning goals of stable funding for conservation districts, and increased leadership training for district officials.
- Keep the Forestry Commission, County/Township Planning Commissions, County Board of Commissioners, Township Board of Commissioners and Marquette County residents informed of District activities via website posting, news articles, newsletters, public forums, social media outlets and educational opportunities.
- Work with the Michigan Association of Conservation Districts and County Commissioners on statewide legislation affecting natural resource issues.

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Randall Gentz	Vice Chairman
Leah Kainulainen	Secretary
Cameron Fuess	Treasurer
Bernard Huetter	Director
TBD	Director

### **STAFF**

Elise Desjarlais	Native Plants Coordinator/Asst. Administrator
Matt Watkeys	FAP Forester
Rachael Guth	CD Manager
Melinda Otto	CUPCWMA Coordinator
Holly Wendrick	MAEAP Technician

### **NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE**

Misa Cady	District Conservationist
TBD	Soil Conservationist
Chad Carlin	RCPD Forester

## **DISTRICT RESOURCES:**

The Marquette County Conservation District is currently housed in the NRCS Marquette Service Center. Staff includes two full time employees, two part time employees, one shared employee and a five member, publically elected board of directors and one associate board member.

Two part time staff persons – District Manager  
Program Coordinator

Two full time staff person – CUPCWMA Coordinator  
FAP Forester

One shared employee

Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP)

Co-located with NRCS field and area office

District Conservationist

Soil Conservationist

RCPP Forester

Computers on NRCS network

Five Board of Directors members – publically elected

One Associate Board member

District Volunteers & Partners – we cannot adequately thank them for their continued support

## **MARQUETTE COUNTY OVERVIEW**

Marquette County is located in the north-central portion of Michigan's Upper Peninsula (U.P.). It is bounded by Lake Superior to the north; Alger County to the east; Delta and Menominee Counties to the south; and Baraga, Dickinson and Iron Counties to the west. Marquette County is 1,165,708 acres, one of the fifteen counties in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Marquette County was named after Father Marquette, a Jesuit missionary, and organized in 1845.

Within portions of Marquette County there are six separate drainage areas as identified by the U.S. Geologic Survey Hydrologic Unit Map (see map 1). The two northern watersheds (04020105 & 04020201) are direct drainage areas flowing into Lake Superior. The three southeastern watersheds are Lake Michigan Drainage Areas of Whitefish and Rapid Rivers - 0403111, Escanaba River - 04030110, and a direct drainage area to Green Bay - 04030109. The single western watershed is the Michigamme River - 04030107, which flows into the Menominee River before entering Green Bay and Lake Michigan.

The soils of Marquette County show great variations. They vary in texture reaction, drainage and moisture available for plant growth. Soils range from sandy to loamy and can change drastically in short distances.

Climate in this area is northern continental and influenced to a considerable extent by the proximity of Lake Superior. The average seasonal snowfall for Marquette County varies greatly by topography and by distance to the lake. The snowfall averages from 144.5" in northern portions of the county to as low as 60" yearly in the farthest southern portion of the county. The normal annual precipitation is 36.31" inches across most of the county.

On average, the first freeze occurs on or near September 21, depending on distance from Lake Superior. Areas directly adjacent to the lake on average, experience the first 32 degree day between September 30 to October 10; compared to the period between August 21st to August 31st in the southern portion of the county.

Marquette County has a population of 67,077 people (2010 census), with 52 percent of the population living in rural areas. The cities of Marquette, Negaunee and Ishpeming are the three cities in the county with a total population of 32,402.

Eighty miles of Lake Superior shoreline outline Marquette County. The "Big Lake" as it is known, is the largest fresh water lake in the world, making it a favorite playground of sailors, kayakers, scuba divers and those who love to fish. There are 30,000 acres of inland lakes, 1,900 miles of rivers and streams, 10 scenic waterfalls, two marinas and a public launch site, six lighthouses as well as three mountains and numerous wilderness and recreational areas. In fact, there is 280,000 acres of land available for public use.

More than 1,000 businesses are located within Marquette County. The variety of business types is impressive, everything from quaint family-owned shops to large corporations such as Cleveland Cliffs Incorporated, to national brand chains such as Kohl's, Best Buy, Lowes, Starbucks and Wal-Mart. The Upper Peninsula's regional medical network includes, nationally award winning Marquette General Health System, is headquartered in Marquette County and Bell Hospital has completed a new facility in Ishpeming. Marquette is also the home to Northern Michigan University, a comprehensive university with an enrollment of more than 9,200 students

In 2010 in Marquette County there were 108 farms with an average size of 247 acres. There is a total of 12,378 acres of cropland, of which 7,616 is harvested cropland and 4,762 is cropland used only for pasture or grazing.

Approximately 83% of the 1.2 million acres of land in Marquette County is forested. Of that acreage the following is a breakdown of acreage by landowner type: Individuals 295,400 acres, State of Michigan 224,500 acres, Corporate 293,200 acres, Forest Industry 171,400 acres, Counties / Townships 14,200 acres. The remaining acreage is owned by the federal government and other small organizations or businesses. Forestry is a major economic component of Marquette County's industry.

## **MARQUETTE COUNTY CONCERNS**

To aid in Marquette County long-range conservation planning, a questionnaire was handed out, posted on the MCCD website as well as mailed to local citizens, organizations, businesses and governmental units requesting input on issues and concerns regarding management of natural resources starting in 2010. We received a low response rate based on the quantity of surveys handed out. The following is a list of the questions asked and a summary of the results from those who responded.

### **Public comments from natural resource surveys**

- 1. What do you believe is the Marquette County Conservation District's purpose?**
  - Inform, educate and promote conservation practices and activities
  - To educate Marquette County residents in environmental education and application
  - To help landowners and residents to manage the natural resources.
  - Continues support of native plants program
  - Overall land use planning
  - Sustainable recreation
  - Promote recreation in Marquette county stock lake at places that have public access promote deer Management, turkey and grouse management and habitat with partners
  - To guide and educate the public
  
- 2. What types of resource management issues do you see emerging for the next 5 years?**
  - Better balance between resource user groups-accessing the same resource
  - Household hazardous waste disposal-more convenient
  - Effects of boat ballast in/on the Great Lakes
  - Education of the public on any area
  - Tourism and its impact on our natural resources

- Development of a plan to protect wayward moose
- Keeping motorized vehicles off hiking trails
- County bicycle trails
- Wildlife habitat management
- Public access to lakes and streams
- Impact of sulfide mining and mining pollution
- Community Supported Agriculture
- Positive economic impact of timber, biomass and mining industries
- Groundwater issues in light of sulfide mining and new roads
- Land over-development
- Sustainable food production
- Shift wildlife from game species to health of entire ecosystem
- Educate city, township tax assessors and tax review boards as to the importance of Tree Farms and Agriculture status
- Control of invasive pests (aquatic and terrestrial)
- Wetland management and protection
- White material dumping on public lands
- County Wide recycling program
- Silt removal/erosion control in lakes and streams (stream bank restoration and sand trap clean out)
- Enhancement of Public and CFR lands for wildlife food and cover.
- Energy use
- Alternative energy sources

**3. What types of plans are you presently making for your organization in response to the issues identified?**

- Work with partners share resources and technical expertise to develop a unified and comprehensive approach
- Adult and Youth Public outreach and education (ideas to include formation of Envirothon Team, Junior CD board, adult education, and/or older student volunteer groups)
- Partner with others to share staff and resources as funding is reduced
- Grant writing, partnering and supporting other organizations to aid in funding to resolve issues.
- Recruitment of a team of volunteers

Land use planning and urban sprawl

- Conservation easements.
- Riparian buffers and stepped up quality of road construction
- Develop education programs, provide technical assistance and partnering with existing agencies, interested citizens.
- Promoting programs and activities that enhance our ability to enjoy our natural resources.
- Support grassroots organizations and local communities.
- Purchase of DNR lands when they become available in Marquette County

Surface and groundwater contamination

- Working with livestock / dairy industry on water quality issues (i.e. manure, fertilizer and pesticide management)
- Provide education and technical assistance to residential pesticide and fertilizer users.

- Work with local zoning boards to approve mining expansion requests.
- Provide support and promote MAEAP and employee, Holly Wendrick using NMU interns

#### Watershed Programs

- Creation of multi-county fish community programs (ideas to include monitoring, culvert replacement, fish passage inventory for improved connectivity)
- Invasive species component for terrestrial and aquatic species near or in wetlands
- Revisiting watersheds maybe looking at old projects to see how they are doing.
- Compare maintenance vs. initiation projects.
- Initiate new projects on streams.

#### Sustainable Timber management

- Use the county forest as a site for demonstration projects.
- Write forest management plans and mark trees to be cut on a sustainable basis on small wood lots (40 – 480 acres.)
- Sustainable Forestry
- Alternative Energy-woody biomass
- Encourage Landowners to implement forest manage practices
- Provide site recommendations for Best Management Practices
- Promote Farm Bill Programs, especially in areas of Forest Management Plans

#### **4. In your view, what are the trends in government regulation / policy at federal, state, and local level that will impact on resource management during the next 5 years?**

- Lack of sustainable funding
- Too much governmental regulation
- Lawsuits force stricter regulation; but administrative cut backs and outsourcing limit implementation
- Increase the tax base at the expense of natural resources.
- Forestry and Forest certification.
- Water Quality/Agriculture: More regulation in regard to using insecticide & herbicides to preserve water quality.
- Land use Planning / urban sprawl
- Watershed plans for communities, possible forestry regulation.
- We seem to be working harder to preserve our resources. Sometimes they get too regulative.
- Zoning

#### **5. Given your thoughts on emerging issues and trends in government regulation and policy, what changes should the Marquette County Conservation District plan for in the next 5 years?**

- Provide more technical assistance
- Too many government regulations
- Continue to provide services to individuals, groups, businesses and governmental units in matters of natural resource use and conservation.
- Provide more assistance with forestry needs and involvement assistance with local communities on water quality issues
- Continue to promote cost share programs to assist and inter agency cooperation.
- Offer educational programs and workshops.
- More assistance with forestry needs and programs.



### Stable Funding:

- To seek stable funding
- Seek grant opportunities
- Seek Earth Week donations
- Partner with others to share staff and resources as funding is reduced
- Find more funding from local groups for more outreach and public relations.

### Active partnering

- National, state and local land conservancies to save desirable ecosystems should occur
- Seek grant opportunities
- Partner with local communities and interested citizens on watershed issues
- Seek better and stronger relations with local, state and federal legislators.

### Laws and Regulations

- Preventing desecration of natural resources.
- More regulations on drinking water quality
- Participate to form new development of agricultural rules & regulations
- Enforcement of soil erosion program

### Other

- Invasive Species problems (both terrestrial and aquatic)
- Using more native plants in public and private landscaping
- Preserving old forests
- Promote Sustainable Farming
- Promote Sustainable Forestry
- Point and Non-Point Pollution flowing into Lake Superior
- Think/be proactive in leadership.

## **6. Are you aware of areas that require attention on the part of the Marquette County Conservation District?**

- More and better publicity about what they want to accomplish and what they have accomplished.
- Keep our rivers, lakes and streams pollution free. Put teeth into enforcement of the Part 91 Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Act.
- Put teeth into enforcement of the Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Act.
- Spend more time on developing deeper, broader financial support from other agencies and through charges for services.
- Noquemenon Trail Network and North Country Trails
- Better education, especially to young children.

## **7. What conservation activities do you practice on your land or in your home?**

- Planting native species
- Recycling
- Gardening
- Home canning
- Buying used items
- Personal Livestock

- Organic Farming
- Community Supported Agriculture

### **Comment from MCCD Staff and Board of Directors**

#### **8. Create Marketing Plan of Action**

- Add pictures on website
- Website-stress accomplishments of CD
- Search engines finding conservation district programs done by title bar and order on website.
- Seek new partners/customers (for example, contact landscapers to offer CTA)
- Direct shipment of trees to customers
- Direct payment for website orders (Pay Pal, credit card acceptance on line)

#### **9. Obtain land for district use**

- Create legacy informational packet for district land donations, tailored for estate planning
- Obtain donated lands and/or obtain conservation easements
- Obtain excess DNR land
- Use MCCD obtained property as educational tool, (i.e. Conservation district learning forest or as potential income opportunities i.e. for timber harvest revenue, conservation use or as a planting area for newly created Plant Rescue Program.)

## **PROGRAMS**

### **WATERSHED PROGRAM**

#### **Objective**

Provide local level guidance for watershed programs.

#### **Methods**

- Assist with prioritizing watershed areas of concern and land use issues as identified by local municipalities, organizations, concerned citizens and staff.
- Seek grants that provide cost share opportunities and natural resource protection throughout the county.
- Pursue funding to continue watershed outreach and education
- Seek funding opportunities to provide technical assistance for landowners and natural resource users including but not limited to NRCS Farm Bill programs

**Long-term Issues / Concerns to Address:** Water quality, storm water management, fish passage and increased connectivity, invasive species in or near watersheds, urban sprawl, land-use planning and to establish watershed councils in area watersheds currently lacking councils by working with individual land owners and lake associations.

## FORESTRY ASSISTANCE AND WILDLIFE PROGRAM



### Objective

Broad-Sense Forestry – Maintain sustainable funding for the Forestry Assistance Program (FAP) that provides a wide variety of services to private landowners, local agencies, and community organizations throughout Alger and Marquette Counties as well as fee based services to governmental organizations. The program views “forestry” in the broadest sense, to include concerns about wildlife, recreation, soil and water conservation, forest health, and timber management. Properties of any size, from large wilderness tracts to small urban backyards, are eligible for assistance. Promote program goals and objectives for the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Department of Natural resource and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

### Methods

- **Property Evaluations** - Site visits are the first priority of the Forestry Assistance Program. Because sustainable forest management depends on a good understanding of the land and the landowners, there is no substitute for “walking and talking the land” with the owners or other responsible parties. In a typical case, the forester will prepare a customized map of the property before the visit that shows vegetation, soils, topography, and other key features
- **Information Services** - Following site visits, as well as other types of contacts, the conservation district forester provides follow-up information. Information packages may include basic forest management plans; guidelines for specific practices, background on special topics, and/or contact information for other natural resource professionals (e.g., consulting foresters, logging contractors, sawmill operators, tree planters, agency personnel, etc.).
- **Presentations** - The program also offers public workshops, field days, presentations to civic organizations and programs for schools and youth groups. Popular workshop topics include: Cost Share Opportunities, Apple Tree Management, Forest Pests, Invasive Species, Sugar bush Management, Tree Selection and Tree Planting, Bat & Bird House Construction, Forest Management opportunities throughout Michigan and Wildlife Management. Illustrated presentations on a wide variety of topics are available, and customized topics may be requested.
- **Partnerships** - The Forestry Assistance Program works in partnership with other agencies, non-profit organizations, forestry professionals and industry groups to promote sustainable forestry practices. Recent projects have involved such issues as landowner cost share opportunities including Forest Management Plans, the development of a forest landowner cooperative, restoration of forest under story plants, promotion of woody biomass energy, sustainable forest management, monitoring and control of invasive plant species, and achieving a balance between deer populations and forest regeneration.
- Better utilize wood BURN UP expanded-cost effective ways for schools/hospitals to heat with wood
- Convincing/encouraging landowners to implement what is in their forest management plans

- Promote tax incentive(s), including CFP and QFA on forest holdings to increase good timber management for NIPF landowners
- Forestry plan-selling carbon credits
- Seek grant opportunities including Energy conservation

## Long-term Issues / Concerns to Address

### Key emerging resource concerns include:

- Timber management on small acreages less than 40 acres
- Forest certification for family forest lands (American Tree Farm)
- Markets for ecosystem services (e.g., carbon sequestration, water quality trading, biodiversity markets)
- Woody biomass harvesting for energy and chemical feedstocks
- Deer impacts (over-browsing, etc.)
- Under story, species diversity, etc., restoration of forest complexity/wildlife habitat
- Exotic insect pests, diseases, and invasive plants that affect forest health
- Management of community owned forests – schools, townships, counties
- Implementing forest management plan practices

### Key long-term strategies for FAP program development include:

- Expand/strengthen the FAP at the statewide level through participation in the MACD, MDNR, MDARD and NRCS Forestry committee.
- Develop an Advisory Committee and closer partnerships with NRCS, DNR, USFS, USFWS, TNC, MDARD and other organizations with public service forestry programs to increase active forest management for NIPF landowners.
- Promote cost share programs including Farm Bill programs
- Develop an intern program (with universities)
- Develop a fee for service(s) based technical service structure
- Work with schools to develop and maintain healthy and productive school forests when applicable
- Acquire a working forest land base to demonstrate good forest stewardship practices to supplement district funding and provide education, recreational and outreach opportunities through land restoration project and sound timber management practices
- and to supplemental district funding and provide other educational opportunities such as outreach and education, land restoration projects, stewardship, good timber management practices and land restoration projects opportunities.

## CONSERVATION TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE



### Objective

Help private landowners, units of government and other individuals, groups, and associations conserve, maintain and improve our natural resources and the environment through a partnership effort.

## Methods

- Cooperate with the Natural Resources Conservation Service to assist land owners in developing conservation plans and provide advice on the design, layout, construction, management, operation, maintenance, and evaluation of recommended, voluntary conservation practices. Conservation plans and practices are based on sound science and address each landowner's specific resource concern(s).
- Encourage implementation of conservation practices by promoting financial and technical assistance for federal, state, and local conservation programs, such as the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP).
- Seek contribution agreements with NRCS
- Escanaba River-erosion, cleanup, trash pickup replacing large woody debris-ERA/TU
- Seek grant opportunities (such as Conservation Innovation Grants CIG)

## Long-term Issues / Concerns to Address

Surface and groundwater contamination, Sustainable Forestry, Right to Farm Guidelines compliance and establishment of cost share agreements

# MICHIGAN AGRICULTURE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSURANCE PROGRAM



## Program:

Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) Water Stewardship Program funded through the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development that helps farms of all sizes and all commodities voluntarily prevent or minimize agricultural pollution risks.

## Objective

To promote and deliver on-farm technical assistance, using farm specific risk assessments, education and conservation plan development to implement practices and coordinate local, state, and federal agency resources to help reduce identified environmental risks, and make progress toward MAEAP verification and MDARD program goals.

## Methods

- Promote the 3-system/3-phase Farmstead System, Cropping System, and Livestock System programs that are assessment tools used to reduce nutrient sources (fertilizer/manure) and pesticide sources from contaminating surface and groundwater.
- Work one-on-one with a MAEAP Water Stewardship Technician
- Assist producers in getting cost-share through the Farm Bill.
- Support local groundwater education in the community (schools, clubs, public interest groups, Townships, etc)

## Long-term Issues / Concerns to Address:

Surface and groundwater contamination

## NATIVE PLANTS PROGRAM

### Objective

Create an awareness of native plant uses & benefits in landscaping; promote the use of native plants where practical and feasible in conservation practices and private land use, and to educate the public on the potential negative effects or risks of using invasive and/or certain non-native plants.

### Methods

- Offer locally native seed and plants to landowners
- Work with local growers to offer locally native seed and plants for sale.
- Offer native plant brochures, books, etc.
- Offer other written materials such as handouts, etc.
- Offer native plant species in the tree sales
- Explore the market to determine which nurseries can/will provide the native stock.
- Encourage neighboring conservation districts to offer native species at their tree sales.
- Work with MACD and our partners to improve statewide and local native plant efforts.
- Begin plant rescues or salvage at construction sites. Offer salvaged materials to local landowners, businesses and governmental agencies for replanting and restoration efforts.
- Support and work with the Central U.P. Chapter of "Wild Ones".
- Offer CTA to individual landowner site visits.
- New approach to native plants program stressing the important of pollinators-up native plant vs. local genotype
- Establish native plant urban garden -what you can do with native plants maybe self guided tour. Map-treasure hunt to educate public about native plants including the native plant gardens located at PWPL, Starbucks, Trestle Corridor, and the MCCD people's garden.
- Seek grant funding opportunities
- Investigate soil testing services program

### Long-term Issues / Concerns to Address:

Identification, public education and long term monitoring of invasive species and opportunities for native plant restoration.

## INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM



### Objective

Create a community awareness of aquatic and terrestrial invasive species and educate the public on the potential negative effects or risks of these noxious plants. To provide technical assistance to identify, monitor, and control and ultimately eradicate invasive species in order to restore degraded habitats and

privately owned lands using native plants

### Methods

- Work with local garden groups and interested citizens to identify, remove and monitor noxious weed sites.
- Offer native plants to the public.
- Offer written educational materials such as handouts, etc.
- Work with local, state and federal groups to promote the importance of removal, proper disposal and monitoring noxious weeds.
- Offer assistance to local landowners, businesses and governmental agencies for identification, removal, replanting and site monitoring
- Recruit and utilize community volunteers, school groups, garden clubs and the Marquette County Sheriff's Works crew for noxious weed removal
- Support and work with the CUPCWMA and RRIP IT UP programs.
- To remove and control invasive species using native plants in degraded to threatened habitats
- Provide conservation technical assistance for individual landowners
- Create countywide weed management plan
- Seek grant funding opportunities

**Long-term Issues / Concerns to Address:** Remove and monitor the spread of invasive and unwanted plants and to restore the land(s) with native plants.

## PLANT MATERIALS PROGRAM



### Objective

Provide a source of affordable plant materials, using native plants whenever possible.

### Methods

- Hold annual spring and fall tree sales.
- Provide technical assistance to landowners regarding the selection of tree species, site preparation and planting and maintenance.
- Offer planting bars, tree planting aids, plant seed, beach grass, native plants, books, etc. for sale at a reasonable price.
- Develop and implement a plant rescue program
- Establish relationship with contractor s and developers for a plant rescue program
- Offer rescued plants to public or use in restoration projects
- Provide public educational workshops
- Solicit corporate sponsors to supplement cost of fixed program expenses (i.e., tree sale catalog)
- Hold summer and fall wildflower plug sale
- Seek information within community for community gardens, rental equipment
- Seek grant funding opportunities.

**Long-term Issues / Concerns to Address:** Invasive species, diversity of native species and pollinator habitat.

## EDUCATION PROGRAMS



### Objective

Educate the public on conservation and management of natural resources education and activities through contributions to association news articles, news paper articles, site visits, workshops and posting information on our website. Participate with adult and youth groups and organizations to familiarize them with conservation district programs and services.

### Method

- Provide a readily available source of informational material and expertise that will enable the public to make wise decisions in the use of natural resources.
- Host annual conservation festival to promote conservation ideas and practices which is free open to the general public as well as to area fifth graders.
- Seek grant funding opportunities
- Working with scouts and merit badge program to get our message out EXPAND KNOWLEDGE BASE
- Obtain land donated and use it demonstration site wildlife habitat etc.
- Marketing with printed materials-need to get out to the public paid ads on TV
- Work with HHHW-find a partner and CFL fluorescent bulbs how it dispose of properly getting information
- Conservation camp/day camp
- Move monthly and annual meeting to various locations to draw from all parts of Marquette county
- To fund full time educational person-figure out how
- Shift focus away from weeds-give volunteers a variety of jobs-mix it up for volunteers.
- Different workshops blueberry, raspberries and blackberries, production, mushrooms, pruning, grafting starting your own orchard/food production, tree health workshop, save as you tube and putting them on line.

***Long-term Issues / Concerns to Address:*** Land-use planning, to grow food for the unfortunate in CD People's Native Plant Garden, creating an Envirothon program with Marquette County Schools including the formation of an Envirothon team. Create public education plans for such topics as sustainable food sources and agriculture, urban sprawl, as well as seek grant funding opportunities for a county wide compost program, surface and groundwater contamination, sustainable forestry, invasive species, timber management, agriculture.



## MARKETING

### Objective

To create brand recognition, heighten communication and increase public awareness of the Marquette County Conservation District.

### Method

- Create interesting and catchy acronyms for our programs and activities.
- Use the new Michigan Association of Conservation District and Marquette County Conservation District logo on all advertising, forms and publications.
- Creating a unique logo for specific activities and programs for example Tree Sale, RRIP IT UP to increase awareness of conservation district.
- Website-stress accomplishments of CD
- Earth week donations at stores-rounding up or donate a dollar
- Estate planning lawyers
- Marketing with printed materials-need to get out to the public including paid ads on TV
- Search engines finding conservation district programs done by title bar and order on website.
- Increase communication to townships/legislature and cities. One visit per twp/municipalities per year
- Create informational packet which would encourage landowners to leave holdings to district-legacy

**Long-term Issues / Concerns to Address:** Increase communication via expense of graphic creation.

### SOCIAL MEDIA



### Objective

To utilize available technology to increase public awareness and build capacity for conservation district programs and activities and to more easily communicate with the residents and resource users of Marquette County.

### Method

- Use social media such as Facebook and Twitter in addition to the conservation district website and electronic newsletter, as communication tools to effectively and inexpensively maintain contact with the public and conservation district volunteers about conservation district news, activities, programs and opportunities.
- Research options for new public outreach software such as constant contact for increased and regular public communication.

### Long-term Issues / Concerns to Address:

Database management of volunteers and conservation district supporters

## MCCD COOPERATING PARTNERS

### Objective

To facilitate the sharing of information, services and funding with other agencies, organizations and individuals who provide services to the public.

### Methods

Provide technical expertise in resource management by working with local, state and federal agencies and private individuals such as, but not limited to:

- Alger Conservation District
- Townships in Marquette County (Champion, Chocolay, Ely, Ewing, Forsyth, Humboldt, Ishpeming, Marquette, Michigamme, Negaunee, Powell, Republic, Richmond, Sands, Skandia, Tilden, Turin, Wells, and West Branch.)
- Army Corps of Engineers
- Baraga County Conservation District
- Boy Scouts of America
- Girl Scouts of America
- Upper Peninsula Land Conservancy
- Central Upper Peninsula Cooperative Weed Management Area
- City and Township Planning Commissions
- Cities of Marquette, Negaunee, Ishpeming and Gwinn
- Delta County Conservation District
- Dickinson County Conservation District
- Farm Bureau of Michigan
- Farm Services Agency (FSA)
- Gogebic Conservation District
- Hiawatha Land Farm Bureau
- Houghton/Keweenaw County Conservation District
- Iron Conservation District
- Keweenaw Bay Indian Community and KBIC Community College
- Kellogg Foundation
- Lake Superior Community Partnership
- Ishpeming, Negaunee Chamber of Commerce
- Landowners and Businesses
- Local Consulting and Industrial Foresters
- Marquette County Board of Commissioners
- Marquette County Commission on Aging Senior Program
- Marquette County Court System
- Marquette County Drain Commissioner
- Marquette County Environmental Health Department
- Marquette Food Co-op
- Marquette County Forestry Commission
- Marquette County Planning Commissions
- Marquette County Prosecutors Office
- Marquette County Road Commission
- Marquette County Solid Waste Authority

Marquette Downtown Development Authority  
Marquette RSVP  
Moosewood Nature Center  
Marquette County Community Foundation  
Marquette County Sheriff's Work Crew  
Michigan Association of Conservation Districts  
Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT)  
Menominee County Conservation District  
Michigan Natural Features Inventory  
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development  
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ)  
Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR)  
Michigan Education Association  
Marquette Household Hazardous Waste  
Michigan State University Extension  
MSU Agricultural Experiment Station  
Michigan Technology University  
St Norbert College  
Lake Superior State University  
Gogebic Community College  
Finlandia University  
University of Wisconsin and its satellite campuses  
Bay College  
Ontonagon Conservation District  
PPPM  
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD)  
Northern Michigan University  
National Office of Atmospheric Administration  
Superior Watershed Partnership  
The Nature Conservancy  
4-H Programs  
Trout Unlimited  
U.P. Resource Conservation and Development Council (UPRC&D)  
USDA Forest Service  
US Park Service  
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
UP Trappers  
Upper Peninsula Land Conservancy  
Wildflower Association of Michigan  
Wild Ones  
Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve

**Long-term Issues / Concerns to Address with partners:** Land-use planning, urban sprawl, agriculture,

groundwater and surface water contamination, invasive species, timber management and so many more.

This five year plan of work was approved at the Marquette Conservation District board meeting on  
\_\_\_October 2, 2016\_\_\_\_\_

Marquette County Conservation District Board Chairperson \_\_\_\_\_  
Cameron Fuess