

Project Narrative

Lake Planning & Protection Grant SPL-196-09

Washburn County Lakes & Rivers Association was awarded this grant to work in concert with Long Lake Protection Association and the Hunt Hill Sanctuary to provide field experiences for area youth in water resources education and protection. A steering committee of representatives of WCLRA, LLPA, and area schools was formed in the spring of 2009 to plan and provide oversight for the project. This group met regularly throughout the summer and fall of 2009, and intermittently thereafter to assist the staff of Hunt Hill in planning the curriculum for the participating schools. It was decided that each day would include four modules through which students rotated in small groups; these are water chemistry, ponding/macro-invertebrates, invasive species, and stewardship. Craig Walkey and Patricia Shifferd of the WCLRA Board of Directors were appointed by the full board to represent the organization on this steering committee.

Soon after the grant award, representatives of WCLRA met with staff from the Department of Natural Resources to assure that funds from this grant would be used to supplement the funds from another lake grant awarded to Friends of Hunt Hill Sanctuary for the same general plan of work. Accordingly, it was decided that WCLRA would provide evaluation services for the project and reimburse Hunt Hill for equipment needed to assure a high quality learning experience for participating schools. The evaluation work was provided *pro bono* by Patricia Shifferd.

In the fall of 2009, students from four area schools (Birchwood, St. Frances de Sales, Spooner Elementary, and Shell Lake) took part in day-long field experiences. In the spring of 2010, students from Northwood school took part. The evaluation results from this work are provided in the appendix to this report. The document, YES student exec. summary, is for the fall and the other document, YES student 2 exec. summary, is for the spring. The student

evaluation form, created in cooperation with staff from University Extension, was generally useful in tracking student reactions to their experiences. The last question on the fall form (“I will ask my parent or guardian to take me outside more”) was discovered to elicit contradictory responses, so the form was revised slightly for the spring (“I hope my whole family can do more things with nature”). Copies of the fall and spring student forms are also included in the appendix.

Overall, the project was very successful, in spite of a couple of days of truly wretched north woods weather. The student and teachers alike responded that the work was both educational and enjoyable.

The equipment purchases were made by Hunt Hill and reimbursed by WCLRA. Items to be purchased were chosen cooperatively by the steering committee and staff of Hunt Hill.