Communicating Tribal Wetland Importance Using ESRI Story Maps

A Tool for Data Access and Outreach

Presenter:
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Stockbridge-Munsee Community

• “People of the Waters that are Never Still” - a Band of Mohican Indians pushed from eastern seaboard halfway across the continent, moving several times and ultimately landing in NE Wisconsin.

• Community:
  • 1,200 members
  • led by a tribal council

• Water Resources Program
  • Water Quality (106 & 319)
  • Wetlands Program Plan

ENDURANCE, STRENGTH, and HOPE
Stockbridge-Munsee Community

• Tribal ties to water:
  • Traditional village locations
  • Subsistence activities – hunting and fishing
  • Recreation – canoeing, bathing swimming
  • Oral traditions and creation story centered around water
  • Water management part of tribal history

• Current Reservation Land
  • 23,471 acres
  • Wetlands 6500 acres or 28% of land base
  • Primarily forested lowland hardwoods, conifer swamps
  • WI has lost 80% of forested wetlands
Stockbridge-Munsee Community

• Water Resources Program:
  • Recognize water quality issues
  • Focus on reservation and surrounding watersheds
  • 2007 EPA grant through CWA Section 106 and 319 to develop Non-Point Source and Water Quality programs
  • Identified the need for wetlands program
  • 2011 Wetland Program Development Grant

“Reverse the historical loss of timber and wetland resources not only to gain the services and benefits those resources provide, but re-establish the ecological character and landscape of our tribal land.”
Stockbridge-Munsee Community

Wetland Program

• Focused on protection and restoration
• Includes active management on tribal lands and surrounding watersheds – over 200,000 acres

Goals:
• To preserve the extent and functions of intact wetlands.
• To enhance tribal-owned wetlands that are being degraded from historical and ongoing land uses.
• To restore tribal-owned wetlands that will improve water quality, fish and wildlife habitat on tribal lands.
• To restore non tribal-owned wetlands that will improve water quality and wildlife habitat for community members.
Project Background

2012 - Wetland Inventory & Functional Assessment Project Completed w/EPA WPD Grant

1) Current Wetlands

2) Historic Wetlands

3) Potential Restoration Site Identification

4) Wetland Restoration
Water Resources Program Recent Work

• Reviewed Potential Restoration Sites
• Restoration Sites Monitored, Restorations Planned & Completed, & More Being Planned
• Continued Water Quality Monitoring at Several Locations
• Developing Land Owner Outreach Strategy for Rest. Sites
Communication/Outreach

• Initial Efforts Not Terribly Effective (*Council Meetings, Newsletters, etc.*)

• Found Social Media Platforms were Heavily Used to Discuss (Unofficially) Tribal Business

• Story Map/Website – a Rich Communication Platform, Adaptable, Geographic-based Used to Target Those Not Attending Council Meeting

• EPA Wetland Program Development Grant Funding

• Collaborate w/ SMUMN

• Project Scoping Completed

• In Design Phase
Project Goals

Create Website with embedded ESRI Story Maps to:

• Share SMC Water Resources Program accomplishments with tribal council and the public

• Provide public access to and interactive use of local wetlands GIS data

• Provide public access to summary water quality data

• Educate and Engage tribal members and the greater community on the importance of wetlands
Five Major Sections

1. Home (built in SQUARESPACE™)
The tribe has been located in the townships of Red Springs and Bartleme in Shawano County, WI since the 1856 land exchange treaty. About 548 of the 1,562 total enrolled tribal members reside on the Tribal lands. The land is governed by the Tribal President, Vice-President, Treasurer, four Council members and a Tribal Court System.
3. Water Resources

- Description of Program
- Water Resource Statistics
- Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Plan
4. Success Stories (Story Maps)

- Wetland Restoration
- Miller Creek
- Restored Wetland Functions
5. How You Can Help

• Complete Our Survey
• Links To Partners
• Contact Us (direct form to email)
Brief Website Demo

https://roger-meyer-kgdh.squarespace.com/
Learning Along the Way

• Organization & Wire Framing to Start
• Content is Critical!!!
• Design for Multiple Platforms
  • Consistently Check Phone After Desktop Changes
Next Steps

• Continue making edits
• Continue to get feedback
  • How to solicit it?
• Explore Testing
• Launch it
• Maintain/Transfer
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