



# HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

## STATE OF MICHIGAN

### Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

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1. The sponsoring representative's first name:  
Ken
2. The sponsoring representative's last name:  
Borton
3. The cosponsoring representatives' names. All cosponsors must be listed. If none, please type 'n/a.' A signed letter from the sponsor approving the co-sponsorship and a signed letter from the member wishing to co-sponsor are required. Attach letters at question #9 below.  
Rep. Amos O'Neal
4. Name of the entity that the spending item is intended for:  
Mason-Griffith Founders Chapter of Trout Unlimited, with the anticipation of investing the funding to cooperative local conservation groups: Anglers of the AuSable, Au Sable North Branch Area Foundation and the Upper Manistee River Association
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:  
4890 Snoopy Trail, Frederick MI 49733
6. If there is not a specific recipient, the intended location of the project or activity:  
See Question #4
7. Name of the representative and the district number where the legislatively directed spending item is located:  
Ken Borton-District 105
8. Purpose of the legislatively directed spending item. Please include how it provides a public benefit and why it is an appropriate use of taxpayer funding. Please also demonstrate that the item does not violate Article IV, S 30 of the Michigan Constitution. The purpose of this funding is to support river conservation, preservation and sustainability of two of Michigan's iconic trout streams. See attached documents for more information.
9. Attach documents here if needed:

Attachments added to the end of this file.

10. The amount of state funding requested for the legislatively directed spending item.  
2500000
11. Has the legislatively directed spending item previously received any of the following types of funding? Check all that apply.  
["None"]
12. Please select one of the following groups that describes the entity requesting the legislatively directed spending item:  
Non-profit organization
13. For a non-profit organization, has the organization been operating within Michigan for the preceding 36 months?  
Yes
14. For a non-profit organization, has the entity had a physical office within Michigan for the preceding 12 months?  
Yes
15. For a non-profit organization, does the organization have a board of directors?  
Yes
16. For a non-profit organization, list all the active members on the organization's board of directors and any other officers. If this question is not applicable, please type 'n/a.'  
Karen Harrison-President; Joseph Snapper-Vice President; Mark Hendricks-Secretary; Gary Vetter-Treasurer; Other board members: Jim Anderson, Mike McNamara, Andy Partlo, Steve Sendek, Brandy Solak, Nick Sendek, Jim Wilkinson, Richard Perry, Al Borchers
17. "I certify that neither the sponsoring representative nor the sponsoring representative's staff or immediate family has a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in the legislatively directed spending item."  
Yes, this is correct
18. Anticipated start and end dates for the legislatively directed spending item:  
2025-2027 with a buffer year of 2028
19. "I hereby certify that all information provided in this request is true and accurate."  
Yes

## **Au Sable and Manistee Rivers Fish Habitat Improvement, Erosion Control, and Resiliency**

Au Sable and Manistee River watersheds are two of the crown jewels of Michigan's cold-water riverine resources. These watersheds are critically important to both the state and local economies, providing desired and valued recreational opportunities such as canoeing, kayaking, trout fishing, and guide and outfitting services. These unique resources attract national and international visitors, further adding to the state and local economies through expenditures at local hotels, restaurants, grocery stores, and gas stations.

In addition, these rivers maintain some of the highest riparian tax values in the region supporting and funding emergency services, school systems, and local governments.

In their long histories, since European settlement in the mid-1800s, these river systems have experienced setbacks, including landscape-wide logging/log drives, overfishing, and unregulated land development. In response, in the early 1900's, state government-initiated programs to restore and enhance in-stream habitats that were impaired by these historical activities.

These restoration programs began with the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the 1930s. The Michigan Department of Conservation (MDOC) was initiated in the 1950s. These were followed by activities conducted by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) from the 1960s through the 1990s. Activities were directed at stabilizing stream banks, uncovering stream gravel by managing excess sand bedload, and in-stream channel form and function through the addition of woody trout habitat installations. In a few instances, this included mechanical dredging to narrow and deepen the reaches of channels that had become excessively wide and shallow.

During that era, the Michigan DNR used state general fund dollars to pay for the materials and have its employees conduct this important work. This work was conducted in conjunction with DNR field biologists to prescribe restoration treatments and institute those treatments with technical field crews. These historic activities aimed to return the streams to their historical (pre-European development) channel form and natural biological function. The rivers then would sustain cold, clear, and stable stream flows, reestablishing natural channel form and function to provide a diversity of stream bed substrates that supported wild stocks of naturally reproducing fish and prolific and diverse insect hatches.

Today, the DNR no longer conducts this work as DNR priorities have shifted along with reductions in the Fisheries field staff. For almost two decades, all stream habitat restoration activities have been conducted by local angling/conservation groups and riparian owner organizations, stepping up and stepping in to learn more and improve the rivers, including hiring a retired DNR fisheries biologist to examine and analyze key stretches of these rivers to understand better what may be wrong and how the rivers can be improved. Funding for these private activities has relied on a hodgepodge of sources from organizational fundraising, private donations, and some state and federal grants. However, these funding sources are inconsistent and inadequate to meet the long-term needs of the river and the local economy.

In 2021, in an effort to create a more sustainable and longer term initiative, then-DNR Director Dan Eichinger launched the Au Sable Resilience and Sustainability Project, a collaborative effort of MSU Fisheries professors, DNR Fisheries personnel, and "stakeholders," individuals from the various conservation groups concerned about the health of the Au Sable and its trout,

including Mason-Griffith Founders Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Anglers of the Au Sable, the Au Sable North Branch Foundation, and the Upper Manistee River Association. These are the conservation groups that have been historically involved in investing private money to protect and enhance these rivers by doing the work the DNR used to do.

The Director called this Resiliency Project "...a plan to create a model for cold water fisheries throughout the State". This Project has moved from the organizational and study phases to monitoring and modeling and is nearing completion. Representatives of these same river conservation groups participated in this Resiliency Project, learning more about the areas of greatest concern and the highest priorities to preserve and protect our rivers, as well as actions that can be taken to improve these fisheries and actions to be taken to avert the potential adverse effects of climate change. We know from a recent summary from a Project coordinator that the goals, tools and tactics the project is now focused on support and endorse the very kind of solutions this appropriation will fund (See Attachment B). This Project is not quite complete.

But the rivers can't wait.

Trout population studies have shown a long period of declining populations of trout. And this is not from overfishing. The upper portions of these rivers, primarily in the Grayling area, have restrictive angling regulations that minimize or prohibit trout harvest and special gear restrictions to minimize hooking mortality.

At the current rate of restoration efforts, despite the significant investments by these groups, more funding is needed so that we can keep pace with the needs for more habitat and other restoration efforts.

The local conservation groups, along with the DNR, are dealing with many threats to the health of these rivers:

- ✓ Beaver populations and associated in-stream dams are exploding due to the demise of wild fur markets, creating riparian vegetation destruction, stream fragmentation (which prohibits fish movement to spawning areas and thermal refuges), elevated summer stream temperature, excessive streambed sedimentation, and disruption of natural sediment transport.
- ✓ Scientists tell us that in their natural state half the surface of these rivers were covered with wood, giving protection to the fish and keeping the water colder. Now canoes and kayaks need clear pathways, so trees that would normally cover the rivers are moved or cleared.
- ✓ Erosion, and resulting sediment, covers large stretches of the rivers interfering with fish reproduction and their food sources. The local conservation groups have collected fish population estimates that show that habitat improvement efforts do work. Higher fish populations and longevity, and excellent insect hatches (food for the fish) have been demonstrated.

The local conservation groups have for many years done their part: raising money for installing trout habitat while managing various other threats, with volunteers and professionals. Essentially, doing the work that tax dollars used to do.

In fact, one of these groups has pledged a minimum of \$50,000 each year for ten years for in-stream structures. Another has purchased sand dredging equipment to remove excess sand

bedload, done chemical sampling and PFAS testing, as well as its own in-stream trout habitats installations. This group has invested half a million dollars in the rivers since 2013. In addition, these groups have added to the existing in-stream monitors through the systems to learn more about the rivers, including water temperature, flow rates, and the like.

The team's roster includes professionals experienced in management of complex river projects, complex transactions and contract including a retired fisheries biologist, lawyers and accountants.

In the last year, two of these conservation groups separately trained volunteers on the use of electrofishing equipment they purchased themselves to conduct fish population studies. The DNR field staff has historically done this, but that shift in DNR priorities has reduced its long-term trout population survey sites to just a few each year, barely enough to track population trends. Again, these conservation groups have stepped in to fill this critical gap. The fish population surveys the conservation groups have been conducting before and after stream habitat improvements, are given to their fisheries biologist to analyze. This scientific data is used to evaluate the effect of the habitat work, and has demonstrated that our efforts are working. There has been a significant increase in fish population at those places where our stream rehabilitation has been done (up to 600% increase in brook trout). But much more is needed for these special rivers that so many of the public enjoy.

In 2023, the first summit of river scientists was held to review and discuss what all the research is showing us and what more we can do. As a part of that effort, all the existing studies were gathered from various sources and centralized, providing access to all who are interested.

Another effort is launching a project to catalog and regularly review existing installations to know what we have, what more we need where, and what repairs are needed to existing installations.

These groups do annual sampling and assessments of the aquatic insects that are prime food for the trout. "Redd" surveys, which find, measure, and analyze the spawning beds of the trout, are done by volunteers every fall. One benefit of these redd surveys is evaluation of how well the installed in-stream structures attract and protect trout to allow them to survive, mature and spawn. For all of this, we need to do more and sooner.

This summary is our breakdown of why this partnership with the State via appropriation funding is so critically important at this time. Also, provided is our proposal for the allocation of funds (See Attachment A).

We look forward to your partnership and support and please let us know if you have any questions regarding the project.

**List of Attachments:**

Attachment A: Map of Proposed Work Area

Attachment B: Proposed Allocation of Funds

Attachment C: Resiliency Plan Goals and Tools

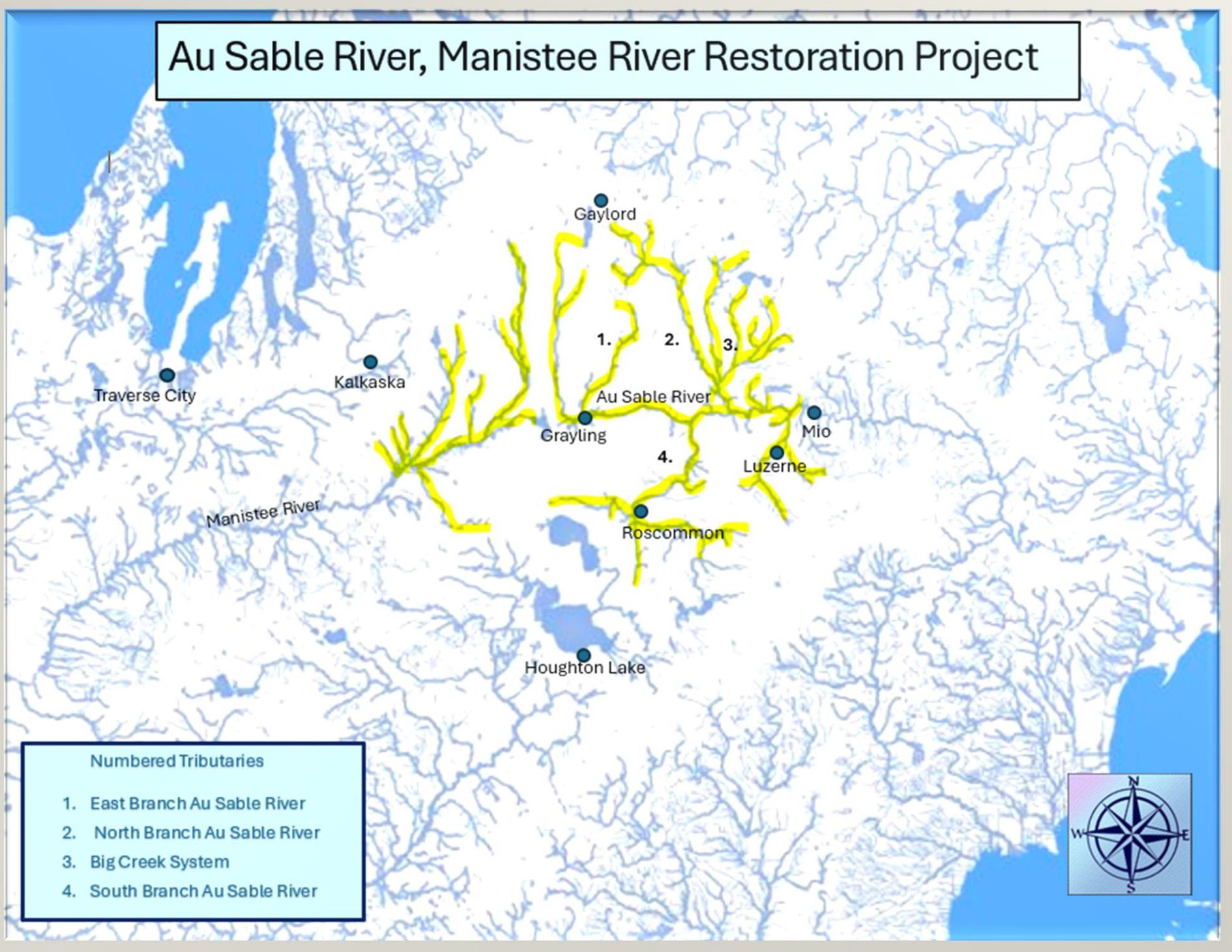
Attachment D: Letters of Support from Participating Organizations

Attachment E: Letters of Support from Area Townships

# Attachment A

Map of Proposed Work Area

# Au Sable River, Manistee River Restoration Project



- Numbered Tributaries**
- 1. East Branch Au Sable River
  - 2. North Branch Au Sable River
  - 3. Big Creek System
  - 4. South Branch Au Sable River

# Attachment B

## Proposed Allocation of Funds

**Au Sable and Manistee Rivers Stream Habitat Improvement and Erosion Control**

**Proposed Allocation of Funds**

Stream Habitat Restoration and Maintenance, including inventory/mapping, instream habitat, stream bank stabilization and riparian tree planting (3 years)		
Au Sable Mainstream	\$270,000	
East Branch Au Sable	\$184,000	
Big Creek System	\$184,000	
South Branch Au Sable	\$270,000	
North Branch Au Sable	\$270,000	
Upper Manistee (Deward to CCC)	\$653,000	
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$1,831,000.</b>
Excess Sand /Sediment Management, Au Sable and Manistee Headwaters, as determined over three years		
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 300,000.</b>
Temperature and Flow Monitoring USGS gages – installation and 3 years of operation		
Mainstream Au Sable - Grayling	\$53,000.	
East Branch Au Sable at Hatchery	\$53,000.	
North Branch Au Sable at Kellogg's Bridge	\$53,000.	
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 159,000.</b>
Nuisance Beaver Management, Au Sable and Manistee Headwaters and Coldwater Tributaries (3 years)		
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 210,000.</b>
<b>Budget Total</b>		<b>\$2,500,000.</b>

# Attachment C

## Resilency Project Goals and Tools

## Resiliency Project Goals and Tools

### Strategic objectives:

- Maximize ecological sustainability
- Maximize ecological form and function of the river
- Ensure sustainable cold-water fishery into the future

### Fundamental objectives: (in no particular order)

- Maximize wild cold-water fishery production (Measure: age-specific fish density of brook and brown trout, length)
- Minimize costs (\$, person hours)
- Maximize longevity of management (# of years of impact)
- Maximize recreational fishing opportunity (# of days below 70 deg., or some duration below 70)

### Tools & tactics: Organized by themes.

- Connectivity: Beaver management, fish passage, dam removal
- In-stream: Fish habitat [large woody debris (LWD), other] sediment removal, erosion prevention, sand traps, invasives monitoring, lake level controls, stocking
- Information gathering: Evaluate and monitor actions, continue research
- Process: Improve EGLE and DNR permitting process.

# Attachment D

Letters of Support from  
Participating Organizations

## RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF RIVER IMPROVEMENT APPROPRIATION

We have reviewed the proposal for an appropriation request of the State of Michigan for the improvement of the upper Au Sable and upper Manistee rivers.

We believe that these funds will be important resources for salvaging and improving the fishing in these rivers, which is vital to the health of the rivers and the communities which rely on them as a recreation resources and tourism draw an important contribution to the local economies.

The Board of Directors of Au Sable North Branch Area Foundation formally endorses and joins with Mason Griffin Founders Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Anglers of the Au Sable, and Upper Manistee River Association in requesting this appropriation from the State of Michigan for improvements to the Manistee and Au Sable rivers using trout habitat installations, sand management measures, tree planting, stream bank stabilization and beaver control.



\_\_\_\_\_

(Robert Weed)

Secretary of: Au Sable North Branch Area Foundation

Dated: April 12, 2025



**Mason-Griffith Founders Chapter  
of Trout Unlimited  
PO Box 502, Grayling, MI 49738**

16 March 2025

RE: Proposals for upper Au Sable and Manistee River Restoration Appropriations

To whom this may concern:

A team of four conservation groups is planning large-scale restoration and enhancement for two of the great trout streams of the Midwest: the Au Sable and Manistee watersheds. Mason-Griffith Founders Chapter of Trout Unlimited, working with the Anglers of the Au Sable, the Au Sable North Branch Area Foundation and the Upper Manistee River Association have proposed river preservation and restoration work. We are seeking State of Michigan Appropriations to fund this critical river work. These efforts would include:

- Stream Habitat Restoration and Maintenance: including instream habitat improvements, stream bank stabilization and riparian tree planting.
- Excess Sand/Sediment Management: targeting the Au Sable and Manistee Headwaters
- Stream Temperature and Flow Monitoring: through the installation and three years of operation of USGS gages.
- Nuisance Beaver Management: in the Au Sable and Manistee Headwaters and Coldwater Tributaries

Each of our organizations have a proven track record in river restoration work, and have raised private funds over the last two decades to preserve and restore the blue-ribbon trout streams in the greater Grayling area. These efforts, which have been scientifically proven effective, are not enough in this time of climate change and DNR belt-tightening. Extensive and immediate action is needed now! Not only does the long-term health of our great rivers need your support, but the survival of our local economy which is directly linked to water sports like fishing, canoeing and kayaking.

Our proposal aims to enhance and accelerate the collective efforts to preserve, protect and sustain Michigan's most famous fishing rivers, possibly the most renowned east of the Mississippi. These plans while ambitious, are essential for the long-term health of our rivers. Our team possesses the experience, knowledge, and passion to ensure these preservation efforts are properly carried out, evaluated for their impact, and implemented to meet the best interests of all stakeholders.

Your consideration of support to this important preservation effort is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen Harrison". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Karen Harrison  
President  
for the BOD of Mason-Griffith Founders Chapter of Trout Unlimited

04/15/25

RE: Proposal for Upper Au Sable and Manistee River Restoration Appropriations

To Whom this May Concern:

The Anglers of the Au Sable, an all-volunteer 501c3, in conjunction and cooperation with Mason-Griffith Founders Chapter of Trout Unlimited, the Au Sable North Branch Area Foundation, and the Upper Manistee River Association, is proposing critical river restoration work to be funded by the State of Michigan Appropriations. The named volunteer groups have been instrumental in the health and survival of the world-famous trout fisheries on the Au Sable and Manistee Rivers. In light of diminished state resources, it has fallen upon such groups to do critical habitat work, conduct fish population estimates, conduct river cleanups, and much more. It is not enough – we need to bolster efforts to keep these rivers healthy enough to attract visitors not only for fishing, but also kayaking, canoeing, bird watching, and more.

With the above groups working together, we have all the tools to ensure the needed-projects are conducted successfully. Not only can we do extensive habitat work, we can study before and after-effects of said habitat work on wild trout populations. Not only can we remove beaver and/or human dams, we can use telemetry gear to chart the success of such removals. We can remove sand, remediate erosion damage...and we can do it right now.

These very famous rivers need our help. We need financial resources to not only maintain these rivers in the face of climate impacts and human development, but to improve them. The named groups have worked, and will continue to work, successfully on dozens of projects in unison. Appropriations will equal better rivers. Period. We – along with the other named groups – have no paid staff. This money will be used specifically for river health. That's our promise. Two very healthy rivers will be what we can deliver.

Sincerely,

Josh Greenberg  
President, Anglers of the Au Sable.



# UPPER MANISTEE RIVER ASSOCIATION

P. O. BOX 282 • GRAYLING, MICHIGAN 49738

[www.umrasite.org](http://www.umrasite.org)

UMRA is a 501(c)(3) Organization

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*The purpose of this Association is to preserve and protect for future generations the Upper Manistee River system and its drainage as a world-class natural resource.*

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April 16, 2025

**RE: Proposals for upper Au Sable and Manistee River Restoration Appropriations**

To Whom It May Concern:

The Upper Manistee River Association is working together with other AuSable River organizations and request proposed river preservation work to be funded by State of Michigan Appropriations. Our organization has extensive experience in river restoration work, and have raised private as well as grant monies funds over the last two decades to preserve and restore the Upper Manistee River watershed.

Specifically, our work would focus on:

- Stream Habitat Restoration and Maintenance: instream habitat, stream bank stabilization and riparian tree planting as well as erosion control
- Excess Sand/Sediment Management, Manistee Headwaters as needed
- Nuisance Beaver Management for Manistee Headwaters and Coldwater Tributaries

While the plans might seem ambitious, they are what is needed to enhance and sustain our river. Your consideration of support to these important preservation efforts is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

David Boberg  
President  
Upper Manistee River Association

# Attachment E

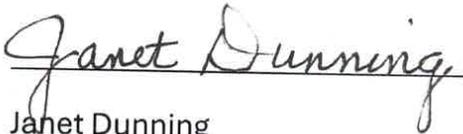
Letters of Support from  
Area Townships

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF RIVER IMPROVEMENT APPROPRIATION

We have reviewed the proposal for an appropriation request of the State of Michigan for the improvement of the upper Au Sable and upper Manistee rivers.

We believe these funds will enable the local conservation groups to continue and escalate stream work which has proven to be vital to the health of the rivers. The proposed work is necessary to ensure there is no further decline in these cold water resources. These river improvement measures are mandatory to restore, preserve and protect our cold water fisheries, the fish and other inhabitants of the river in this time of climate change. Local communities rely on these rivers as a recreations resource (fishing, canoeing, kayaking) and important part of the local economy.

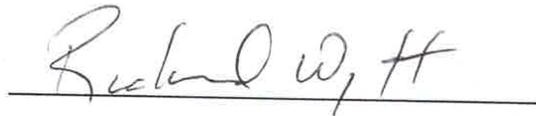
The Lovells Township Board of Lovells Township, Crawford County, Michigan, formally endorses and joins with Mason Griffin Founders Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Anglers of the Au Sable, Upper Manistee River Association, and the Au Sable North Branch Area Foundation in requesting this appropriation from the State of Michigan for improvements to the upper Manistee and Au Sable rivers using stream habitat restoration/installation and management, sand management measures, tree planting, stream bank stabilization and nuisance beaver management.



Janet Dunning

Lovells Township Clerk

Dated: 4-9-25



Richard Wright

Lovells Township Supervisor

Dated: 4-9-25

## RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF RIVER IMPROVEMENT APPROPRIATION

We have reviewed the proposal for an appropriation request of the State of Michigan for the improvement of the upper Au Sable and upper Manistee rivers.

We believe these funds will enable the local conservation groups to continue and escalate stream work which has proven to be vital to the health of the rivers. The proposed work is necessary to ensure there is no further decline in these cold-water resources. These river improvement measures are mandatory to restore, preserve and protect our cold-water fisheries, the fish and other inhabitants of the river in this time of climate change. Local communities rely on these rivers as a recreation resource (fishing, canoeing, kayaking) and the tourism they draw that is an important contribution and mainstay of the local economies.

We believe that these funds will be important resources for salvaging and improving the fishing in these rivers, which is vital to the health of the rivers and the communities which rely on them as a recreation resources and tourism draw an important contribution to the local economies.

The **Board of Trustees of Charter Township Of Grayling** formally endorses and joins with Mason Griffin Founders Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Anglers of the Au Sable, Upper Manistee River Association, and the Au Sable North Branch Area Foundation in requesting this appropriation from the State of Michigan for improvements to the upper Manistee and AuSable rivers using stream habitat restoration/installation and management, sand management measures, tree planting, stream bank stabilization and nuisance beaver management.

Giska by Wargo by Selthoffer by Stephan by Michal by Smock by Sorenson absent

Clerk of Charter Township of Grayling

Dated: 4-16-25



The Township of Frederic

To whom it may concern:

This letter of support on behalf of the Frederic Township Board Trustees, is documentation that we have reviewed and support the proposal for an appropriation request of the State of Michigan for the improvement of the upper Au Sable and upper Manistee rivers.

We believe these funds will enable the local conservation groups to continue and escalate stream work which has proven to be vital to the health of the rivers. The proposed work is necessary to ensure there is no further decline in these cold-water resources. These river improvement measures are mandatory to restore, preserve and protect our cold-water fisheries, the fish and other inhabitants of the river in this time of climate change. Local communities rely on these rivers as a recreation resource (fishing, canoeing, kayaking) and the tourism they draw that is an important contribution and mainstay of the local economies.

The Frederic Township Board of Trustees formally supports the Mason Griffin Founders Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Anglers of the Au Sable, Upper Manistee River Association, and the Au Sable North Branch Area Foundation in requesting this appropriation from the State of Michigan for improvements to the upper Manistee and Au Sable rivers using stream habitat restoration/installation and management, sand management measures, tree planting, stream bank stabilization and nuisance beaver management.

At our board meeting on April 8, 2025, we voted in full support.

Sincerely,

Brandon Gabriel, Frederic Township Supervisor

The Township of Frederic  
6470 Manistee Street  
P.O. Box 78  
Frederic, MI 49733  
(989)348-8778  
[www.frederictownship.org](http://www.frederictownship.org)



5245 N. M-18  
PO Box 606  
Roscommon, MI 48653  
989-275-8232 Phone  
989-275-4860 F  
April 8, 2025

Mason-Griffith Founders TU Chapter #001  
P.O. Box 502  
Grayling, MI 49738

Dear Ms. Karen Harrison,

South Branch Township in Crawford County supports an appropriation for the Mason-Griffith Founders Trout Unlimited Chapter #001 to work on restoration projects for the Au Sable and Upper Manistee Rivers. The previous work done by your organization provides a credible endorsement for support.

This area is a popular destination for anglers and river recreation. The trout fishery is world renown due to the cold waters of these rivers. In ever-changing climatic conditions, the work of the Mason-Griffith Founders becomes more important. Obtaining an appropriation will provide the necessary resources to maintain and improve this tourist destination. The work provides a measurable boost to our local economy for our lodging establishments and locally-owned, small businesses.

A formal endorsement was approved at the April 8, 2025 meeting of the Township Board of South Branch. The township board joins with the Mason Griffiths Founders Chapter #001, Anglers of the Au Sable, Upper Manistee River Association, and the Au Sable North Branch Area Foundation in requesting this appropriation from the State of Michigan for improvements to the upper Manistee and Au Sable Rivers using stream habitat restoration/installation and management, sand management measures, tree planting, stream bank stabilization and nuisance beaver management.

Sincerely,

  
Anna Sylvester  
Supervisor, South Branch Township

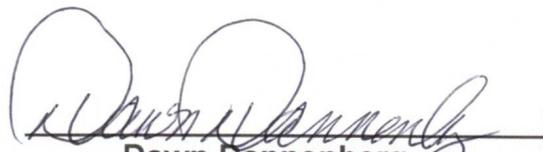
**BEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP  
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE RIVER  
IMPROVEMENT APPROPRIATION TO THE UPPER  
MANISTEE AND AUSABLE RIVER  
# 11 OF 2025**

**WHEREAS:** We have reviewed the proposal for an appropriation request of the State of Michigan for the improvement of the upper Au Sable and upper Manistee rivers.

**WHEREAS:** We believe these funds will enable the local conservation groups to continue and escalate stream work, which has proven to be vital to the health of the rivers. The proposed work is necessary to ensure there is no further decline in these cold-water resources. These river improvement measures are mandatory to restore, preserve and protect our cold-water fisheries, the fish and other inhabitants of the river in this time of climate change. Local communities rely on these rivers as a recreation resource (fishing, canoeing, kayaking) and the tourism they draw that is an important contribution and mainstay of the local economies.

**WHEREAS:** We believe that these funds will also be important resources for salvaging and improving fishing in these rivers, which is vital to the health of the rivers and the communities which rely on them as recreation resources and tourism draw an important contribution to the local economies.

**WHEREAS:** The Board of Directors of Bear Lake Township formally endorses and joins with Mason Griffin Founders Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Anglers of the Au Sable, Upper Manistee River Association, and the Au Sable North Branch Area Foundation in requesting this appropriation from the State of Michigan for improvements to the upper Manistee and Au Sable rivers using stream habitat restoration/installation and management, sand management measures, tree planting, stream bank stabilization and nuisance beaver management.

  
**Dawn Dannenberg**  
**Bear Lake Twp. Clerk**

Dated: 4/8/25

