

**BRANCH COUNTY, MICHIGAN
PRAIRIE RIVER RECLASSIFICATION**

Resolution # 2023-01

BE IT RESOLVED BY the Board of Commissioners of Branch County

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources is considering the reclassification of the Prairie River in Branch County, Michigan.

WHEREAS, the Prairie River has been classified as a Type 4 Trout stream from Bowers Road to McKale Road since 2006. A change in the Mi-WWAT temperature classification does not protect the fish populations. No streamflow depletion or detrimental water temperature changes have been observed or measured despite significantly increased irrigation in the watershed; and

WHEREAS, the proposed reclassification is the first one attempted in the State and will set precedent for future reclassifications. The stream temperature data is limited and was collected without following the cited EPA protocols. The precedent for future potential reclassifications must be set to a much higher standard of data collection, data analysis, and public presentation in reports and public meetings; and

WHEREAS, the benefits to the trout and the river of decreasing the allowable streamflow depletion by nearly 5 times the current limits are unclear and unstated. At the same time, the devastating impacts that would be directly caused by severely restricting the water use on the communities, residents, businesses, and municipalities are not being considered. No impact studies or cost-benefit analyses have been conducted; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BRANCH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, strongly objects to the reclassification of the Prairie River and recommends that the DNR disapprove the reclassification or pause their decision to analyze further data for a more informed decision; and

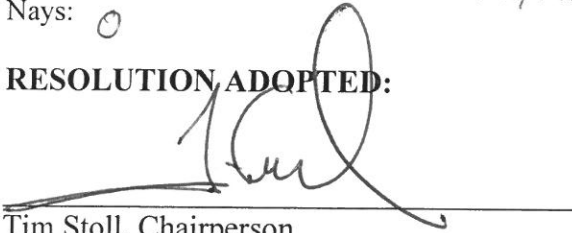
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be shared with DNR, EGLE, Senator Lindsey, Representative Fink and other Michigan counties.

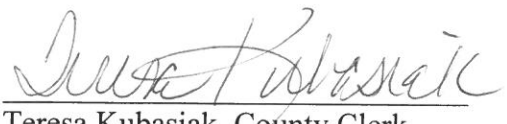
On Roll Call:

Ayes: Houtz, Hazelbaker, McClellan, Matthew, Stoll - 5

Nays: 0

RESOLUTION ADOPTED:


Tim Stoll, Chairperson
Branch County Board of Commissioners


Teresa Kubasiak, County Clerk
Branch County

1/10/2023