Communicating Tribal Wetland Importance Using ESRI Story Maps

A Tool for Data Access and Outreach

Presenter:
Andy Robertson

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

Antigo

Moose Lake

Langlade

Menominee

Neopit

Neopit Mill Pond

Marathon

Birnamwood

Wolf River

Legend Lake

Keshena

Bowler

Gresham

You are Here!

Upper & Lower
Red Lakes

Red River

Wittenberg

Shawano

Shawano

Embarrass River

Rivers & Streams

Lakes

Stockbridge Area

Counties

Study Area

**Stockbridge-Munsee
Wetland Project Boundaries**

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."

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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.
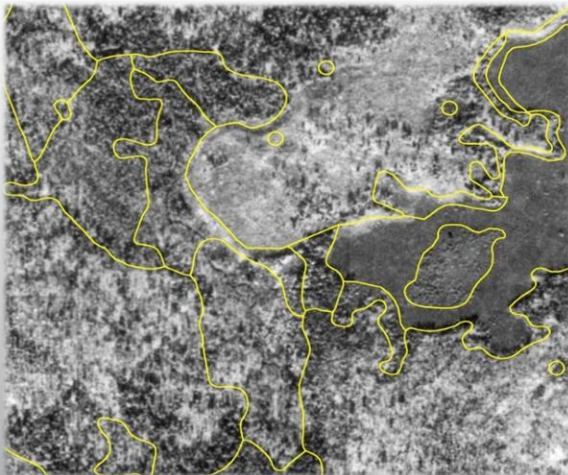
Project Background

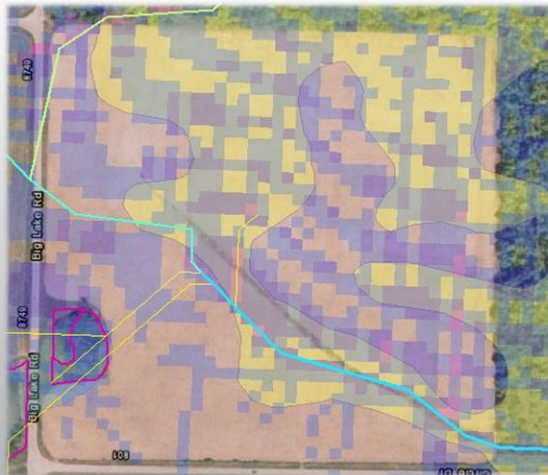2012 - Wetland Inventory & Functional Assessment Project Completed w/EPA WPD Grant

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

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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 <u>accomplishments</u> with tribal council and the public

- Provide <u>public access</u> to and <u>interactive use</u> of local wetlands GIS data

- Provide public access to <u>summary water quality data</u>

- <u>Educate</u> and <u>Engage</u> tribal members and the greater community on the importance of wetlands

Five Major Sections

1. Home (built in SQUARESPACE ™)

Stockbridge-Munsee Community Water Resources Program

"People of the Waters That Are Never Still"

HOME   WHO WE ARE   WATER RESOURCES   SUCCESS STORIES   HOW YOU CAN HELP

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2. Who We Are? (Tribal History – Timeline Story Map)

3. Water Resources

- Description of Program

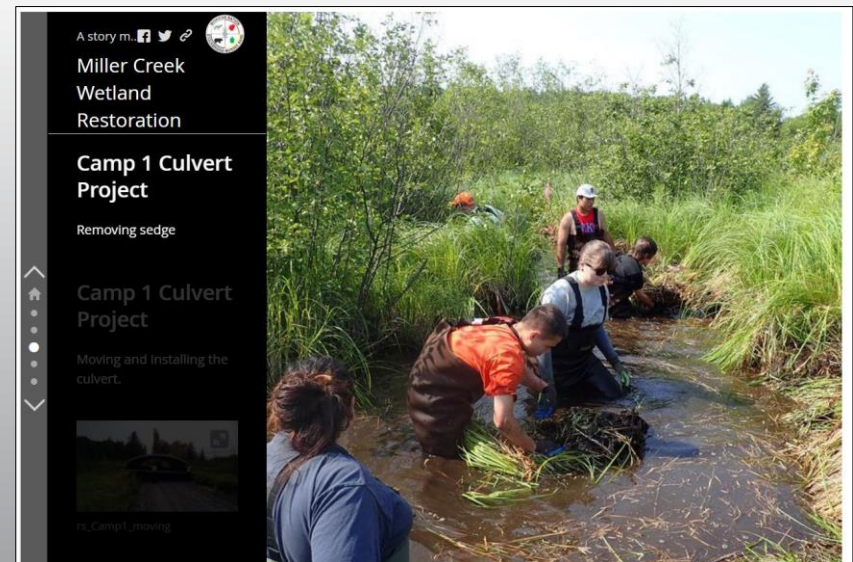- Water Resource Statistics

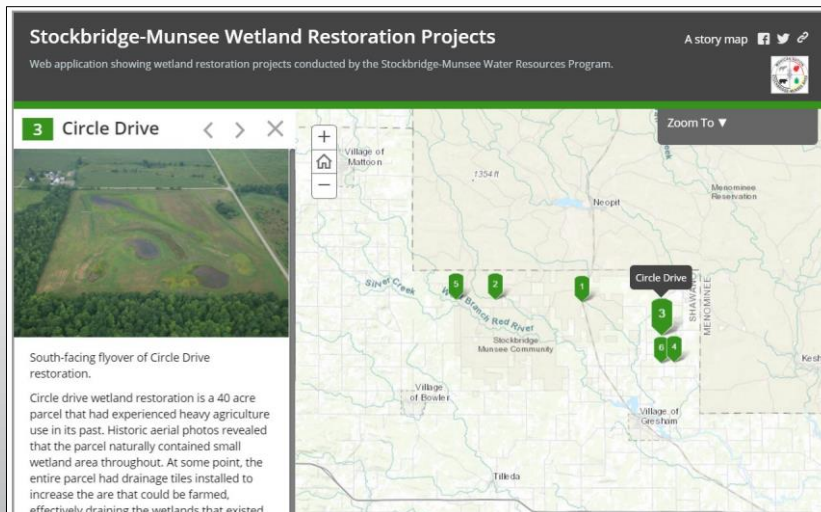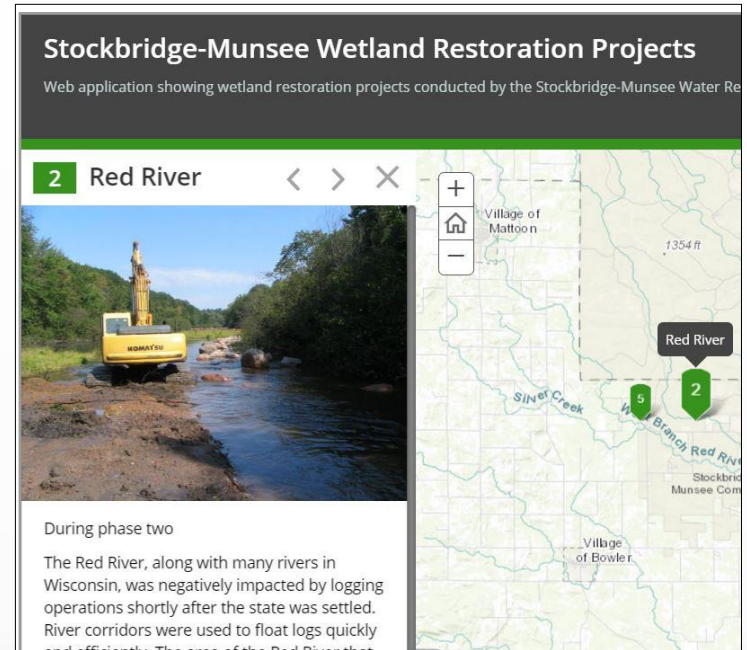- Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Plan

Water Resources Program

Tribal Water Resources...

The Tribe's land base has a diverse variety of water resources,

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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)

Email *

Name *

First Name

Last Name

Are you attending? *

Who else is coming with you? *

Song suggestions?

SUBMIT

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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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