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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Second Consecutive \$40,000 EGLE Watershed Support Grant provides expanded opportunities to landowners in Rogue River Watershed

Funding will support critical conservation and restoration efforts in the impaired watershed.

September, 2023 –Kent Conservation District (KCD), on behalf of the Rogue River Watershed Partners (RRWP), received their second consecutive grant of \$40,000 in July, 2023 from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) Water Resources Division Nonpoint Source Program. The money is allowing RRWP and KCD to expand previous conservation efforts in the impaired Rogue River watershed, primarily impacting parts of Kent, Newaygo, and Ottawa Counties.

Funding will be utilized to 1) advocate for improved water quality within the Rogue River Watershed by continuing the riparian buffer campaign originally initiated in 2022; 2) enhance school outreach and programming to continue the momentum created under Trout Unlimited's Home Rivers Initiative and provide students with hands-on conservation experiences within the watershed; and 3) aid the restoration of the Nash Creek Intercounty Drain in collaboration with the Kent County Drain Commissioner, including improvements such as the installation of management practices like filter strips, setbacks, and tree plantings. Additional opportunities will be made available for the public to attend on-site or virtual programming.

Riparian buffers are areas of native vegetation growing adjacent to waterways like rivers, streams, or lakes that help maintain watershed health by filtering out excess nutrients, preventing erosion, and reducing the severity and impacts of flooding. The RRWP previously awarded several mini grants to landowners for the installation of riparian buffers on their properties. Landowners within the Rogue River Watershed will again have the opportunity to apply for additional mini grants in the upcoming 2023-2024 campaign.

The RRWP are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization comprised of community volunteers. Their mission is to protect, preserve, and promote the Rogue River, its tributaries, and its watershed through community stewardship, education, and watershed-based land-use planning.

To learn more visit the Rogue River Watershed Partners web page (<http://www.rogueriverwp.org>) or find them on social media (www.facebook.com/rogueriverwatershed/).



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