

**Portage/Arcadia Creek 319 Watershed Planning Steering Committee
Meeting Summary: February 13, 2002**

Meeting was held at Western Michigan University, Fetzer Center.

Attendees: Don Brown, Kathy Buckham, Mickey Cook, John Cooley, Jim Coury, Leslie Decker, Dave Heinicke, Pat Holton, Mark Kieser, Paul Manstrom, Mike McCarville, Nicole Ott, Ron Commissaris, Jenny Molloy, Paul Olexia, Bill Reed, Jeff Reicherts, Tom Small, Rick Standish, Bill Van Dien, Jill Winkler, Barb Wygant, Mike Tenenbaum, Brian Prill (guest), Jessica Engel (guest).

The following summary corresponds to the meeting agenda.

NOTE: No Steering Committee meeting was held in the month of January due to the number of sub-watershed meetings held in that period.

1. Dr. Pat Holton, representing WMU, provided a brief welcome. Given the large number of participants, self-introductions were made around the room. The agenda was reviewed and accepted with no changes.
2. The meeting Summary for December 12, 2002 was approved. Bill provided copies and gave a quick run through of the December 2001 Tracking Report (*handout*) submitted to MDEQ. (Copies of this monthly report will continue to be available at the Steering Committee meetings.)
3. Mark Kieser provided a visual tour of recent updates to the existing website. A link to the Internet, a lap top computer and a projection device allowed all to simultaneously view the displayed content. The website has had several additions/alterations made since this last meeting. Nicole Ott (K&A) presented a visual sample of the Natural Features work, in both content and appearance, taking us through the "beta" version now under development and to be added to the website at a future point in time. Sampling locations with links to actual data collected at these sites and graphical representations of these data were presented. Embedded links to other data and information were demonstrated. How digital images will be worked into a "virtual tour" of the watershed was discussed. Pictures are worth a thousand words. It is too difficult a task to attempt to condense what was illustrated into a brief text summary here. For those not present, apologies. Stay tuned as the website goes through its metamorphosis.
9. M. Tenenbaum used the projection system to present for discussion, modification and approval the prepared tabular results from each of the sub-watershed group meetings. Efforts had focused on addressing such elements as designated uses, impaired uses, desired uses and goals. Most groups had meet twice in the intervening period since our last SC meeting. Three tables per sub-watershed were presented and discussed. Agreed to alterations were recorded at the meeting and changes to the website tables were made at a later date. These modified tables are now posted on the website.
5. M. Kieser provided an update on the technical activities that have been taking place since the project inception. Several sampling events have been completed for both wet and dry-weather events. Two permanent sampling devices have been installed and appear to be functioning well; one is at a weir in the mouth of Arcadia creek and the other is close to the mouth of Portage Creek. Sampling locations were identified within the context of each sub-watershed. Discussion included analyses being performed and initial observations, physical characteristics of sampling sites and any problems encountered. It was noted that K&A would continue this sampling through both years of the project. Data will be analyzed and posted on the website in both tabular and graphic formats.

6. M. Tenenbaum provided a brief overview of the recent meetings of the Educational Committee and their directions. Compilation of resources, types of activities desirable within specific sub-watersheds and opportunities to build upon other projects in-place or proposed have all received attention. K. Buckham then provided the status of her "Kids for Creeks" program and the types of activities that could take place. With only limited time, Kathy then gave us an update on her direction and wowed us all with a presentation of "Fred Meets the Watershed", or "Poor Fred" as it is referred to around the Conservation District office. While geared to 3-5th graders, this dynamic demonstration delighted all in attendance.
7. B. Reed & M. Kieser next took us through a handout (Looking Ahead, included as the last page of this summary) presenting timeline elements and needs from now through July 2002. It is expected that as we move forward this proposed timeline and list of activities will be modified as needed.
8. Open Time included updates on the following activities related to the 319 project:
 9. A Wetlands Construction Permit has been submitted to the MDEQ for a project that involves the site of the former Wayside Bowling Lanes west of Rambling Road and on the north side of Stadium Drive. A Home Depot is proposed that will require extending fill northward, into existing wetlands between the current fill and the railroad tracks. This is the current course of Arcadia Creek. A City well field is to the east of the property in question. Wetlands mitigation is required and proposed both for on-site and at another development located in Richland. A public hearing should be held soon. The SC should decide what role it wants to take in these deliberations.
 10. The Crosstown Parkway report being prepared for the City of Kalamazoo, which we are told negates the use of these ponds for wetlands development, has not yet been completed. The Axtell Creek sub-watershed group is anxious to obtain and review this report. In lieu of the ponds, the City is considering wetlands development (a mitigation requirement for wetlands lost due to City actions at the former Cork Street Landfill site) in the vicinity of the "new" Justice complex, near the confluence of Axtell and Portage Creeks. It is our understanding that no final decision has been reached on this site.
 11. The City of Kalamazoo is also in the process of developing a Master Plan for the Upjohn Park complex, along Crosstown Parkway. The Upjohn Park Subcommittee of the Partners Building Community Group will host a two-day design workshop on March 12 and 13, from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Disability Resource Center, 517 East Crosstown Parkway. Intended as a casual drop-in event, visitors will be able to review what has been prepared thus far, and provide their personal comments, ideas, concepts and opinions for the record. What kinds of facilities, activities and programs is the community interested in for this site, which includes the proposed trailway along Portage Creek? With both Axtell Creek and Portage Creek within this area, input to these meetings should be strongly considered by Steering Committee members.
9. Our next meeting two meetings will be:

Wednesday, March 13, 2002 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m., at the WMU Fetzer Center
Wednesday, April 24, 2002 (NOTE CHANGE), 9-11 a.m. at a site to be named

Submitted by Michael Tenenbaum for the Steering Committee