

## **Portage/Arcadia Creek 319 Watershed Planning Steering Committee Meeting Summary: February 27, 2003**

Meeting was held at Western Michigan University, Fetzer Center.

**Attendees:** Pat Holton, Mark Kieser, Janelle Hohm, Mike McCarville, Bill Reed, Paul Olexia, Mark Stevens, Tom Small, Hannah Sanger, Jeff Reicherts, Ric Gendernalik,

The following summary corresponds to the Agenda order of the meeting.

1. Greetings, Introductions and Agenda Review: B. Reed greeted all on behalf of WMU, our host for the meeting. Introductions were made around the table. A revised agenda was provided and approved with no alterations. Tom Small announced that WILD ONES was sponsoring Dr. Mike Klug to speak about his work on Native Plants And Their Role In Sustainability Of Soil Biology. It will be held March 26 at Christian Church - Disciples of Christ, 2208 Winchell, Kalamazoo.
  2. B. Reed indicated that there have been no written Administrative Reports prepared since the January meeting. A report for Jan. and Feb. will be prepared early in March. Reed did provide a brief oral summary on progress since January meeting, which has mostly focused on WMP revision and Axtell Creek efforts. **Reed also focused attention on the June 30, 2003 end date for all 319 grant funded activities and made sure that all understood the implications for completing billable work.**
  3. M. Kieser indicated that he and Nicole Ott of K&A have interacted with Janelle and made revisions to all designated use tables based on SC recommendations at January meeting. K&A had also completed a general edit of the printable WMP document (except Education Plan) and Mark provided copies to Hannah Sanger and Mike McCarville who previously agreed to proof read and provide editorial suggestions. **ACTION: The SC agreed to set March 21, 2003 as a final date for completing revisions to Version 1 of the WMP.** This should allow Janelle Holm time to complete DEQ review prior to her maternity leave. Also, a WHAT'S HAPPENING or WHAT'S GOING ON section for the website was suggested as a way to get interested people/organizations involved and keep us aware of progress and momentum.
- 4. PROGRESS REPORTS:**
- **Axtell Creek:**
    - i. We will hear tomorrow about a \$5000 grant request was made in January to the Kalamazoo Community Foundation for Axtell Creek improvement planning.
    - ii. Janelle briefed the group on a new Rain Garden grant project on Axtell Creek that DEQ is funding with \$40,000. The City of Kalamazoo will administer the grant with the Kalamazoo Nature Center contracted to run the project. Steve Allen of KNC is invited to the March Axtell meeting to discuss the project. Patricia Pennell and the [www.raingardens.org](http://www.raingardens.org) site were mentioned as valuable area resources on rain gardens.
    - iii. Mark Stevens indicated that the City budget was passed with funding for improvements to Axtell Creek though exact amount is uncertain.
    - iv. Reed unveiled the Axtell Creek Corridor Concept Plan Display designed by Mark Wrona of URS Corp. of Grand Rapids based on his work with the committee. After looking at the display a request was made to get smaller copies for committee member individual use.
    - v. To work on dovetailing efforts, the Education Committee is invited to the next Axtell Creek meeting, March 11, 2002, 9am at Kal. City Dept. of Public Services, 415 Stockbridge Avenue.
  - **Arcadia Creek:** Pat Holton said WMU would have an interest in doing a storm drain marker project, ideally in coordination with city efforts.

- **Education:** The committee has not met since January 3 but Kathy Buckham is working on revisions to the Education part of the WMP. She will be informed of the 3/21/03 completion deadline. The Education Committee plans to meet again prior to the 3/11 Axtell meeting that they have been invited to attend.
5. **WMP PUBLIC ROLLOUT & AWARENESS BUILDING:** Reed shared basic strategies that Don Brown and he developed from the brainstorm of ideas at the last SC meeting. April 15 to June 15, 2003 is the general time frame for implementing these primary strategies:
    - Conduct four subwatershed meetings where individuals and organizations would see an A/V presentation of the WMP and be invited to discuss it and participate in furthering improvement efforts focused on their individual watershed.
    - Meet with Stormwater Working Group to introduce and get feedback on WMP.
    - Meet with Kalamazoo River Phosphorus TMDL Implementation Committee to introduce and get feedback on WMP.
    - Meet with other interested groups like WILD ONES, Kalamazoo Environmental Council and member groups, neighborhood groups, and do outreach to local K-12 and college entities.
    - For general community use, develop a short (15 min. +/-) A/V presentation on the project introducing the Website and the WMP as community assets and designate presenters.
    - The possibility of a Channel 3 Exclusive, 3 part (day) story will be pursued.
    - Do a general press release about the project Website and WMP as community assets.
  6. **PERPETUATION/SUSTAINABILITY OF PROJECT EFFORTS** – Mark Kieser used a PowerPoint presentation to focus on key issues related to institutionalizing and/or sustaining efforts to implement and review this WMP. This will be a major SC focus from now through the ending of the 319 grant in June. Many potential activities were proposed for ongoing collaboration between project partners, regulated entities, and members of the greater watershed community. General categories of activity might include: documenting accomplishments; measuring water quality & watershed improvements; rescoring stream stretches; expanding current water quality data; expanding community involvement and support; reprioritizing future projects; updating the WMP; publicity for noteworthy efforts; seeking new grants/funding for improvement efforts. Three possible “structures” for continuing our efforts included a WMP Oversight Committee (rollover of SC); dividing into subwatershed groups with an occasional combined meeting; or tying into ongoing structures of TMDL Subwatershed Work Group, Stormwater Working Group, or Phase II Permittees. In any case, identifying leadership, maintaining momentum, providing mutual support and accountability, and developing financial/in-kind support will be key concerns.
  7. **The next Steering Committee meeting was set for Thursday, March 27, 2003 at 9am. That meeting will be at a new location, the Kalamazoo Water Reclamation Building, 1415 N. Harrison at a place to be determined.**

Submitted by Bill Reed, The FORUM of Greater Kalamazoo