

**Portage/Arcadia Creek 319 Watershed Management Plan Steering Committee
Meeting Summary: June 12, 2002**

Meeting was held at Western Michigan University, Fetzer Center.

Attendees: 16 people were in attendance

The following summary corresponds to the meeting agenda.

- 1) Greetings and introductions were made; there were no significant alterations to the agenda.
- 2) No April Summary was available for review. The Administrative Report was reviewed and accepted as submitted to the MDEQ.
- 3) A status update for the www.kalamazooriver.net website was provided by both M. Kieser and M. Tenenbaum.
 - D. Brown alluded to the excellent changes to the site and asked how these might continue into the future (re: funding). Don believes that this site would be a great host for all small projects “up and down the Kalamazoo River” so that each would not have to create their own site. The question as to whether the Kalamazoo Community Foundation or some other funder would support something such as this was left open.
 - Kieser & Associates should be added to the contact list on the website.
 - The Parkview Hills presentation focused on getting information out to the broader community for what is being done within the property, including projects and demonstration sites.
 - Within the Educational/Informational component, the Wild Ones want to promote and generally assist with both demonstration and restoration sites whenever and wherever feasible.
 - There is need to be able to get a very BASIC MESSAGE across; that there are separate storm and sanitary sewer systems in our communities. Several participants have repeatedly noted, when speaking to groups of adults, children or the combination of each, that many citizens expressed disbelief that all sewers do not go to the water reclamation plant.
 - The concept of “storm water riparian” came up for discussion. J. Paquin noted that he could provide a map of where catch basins and other infrastructure are located. This can be overlain with a parcel map to illustrate the potential for any property owner to impact the river through the storm sewer system closest to them. As an example of why residents can be confused, there are three different types of manholes/sewer conveyances in use; water, sanitary and storm water. QUESTION: Would we be able to have Bill

Krasean write an informational article when we approach public expansion of the concepts?

- B. Reed noted that he had received a communication from Mr. Joe Bauer, soon to have an article published in Audubon on non-point sources, who expressed interest in working with us (writing materials) if we so desired. No action was taken by the SC on this offer.
- 4) K&A Staffers, J.Spoelstra and N. Ott presented technical results and progress. Jeff S. provided a Power Point presentation, featuring a graphical representation of the data components thus far incorporated into the database. Nicole then presented details and results of the scoring process and outlined potential next steps in their use; helping the subgroups develop priorities for protective steps and improvements in their respective subwatersheds.
- T. Small asked, “What do we mean by the term ‘habitat?’” and suggested that it be defined. He also wanted to know if we will “write off” certain areas along these streams. To the former, the group noted that perhaps it would be better to use “manage the land” as a substitute for “habitat”?
 - The ensuing discussion noted that citizens groups could organize to undertake restoration areas that have been highly impacted, or could encourage municipalities to take such action on public property. The plan should avoid presenting the impression that any area can/should be written off. Any area can be improved if the desire is there. It is easier to maintain high quality areas than to recreate them once they have become degraded. The concept of overall corridor continuity is one that should be stressed.
 - Citizens groups can organize to undertake restoration and/or improvement efforts at any locale where they have permission of the owner(s) of the property to do so. What this plan strives for are to have these efforts be consistent with the goals and concepts contained herein, in keeping with the concept of (corridor continuity).
- 5) The last item discussed included scheduling to meet the identified remaining needs. Efforts will be directed to providing an accessible electronic copy to J. Molly by July 26th for her review. The intent is to have the WMP complete for acceptance and approval shortly thereafter.
- Meetings for subwatershed groups
 - Arcadia 7-20-02 @ 10 a.m.
 - W. Fork 7-21-02 @ 10 a.m.
 - Portage 7-24-02 @ 9 a.m.
 - Axtell 7-26-02 @ 3 a.m.
 - Technical Subcommittee on July 2, K&A offices @ 11 a.m.
 - Steering Committee WMU Fetzer Center: July 8 & July 22, both @ 9 a.m.

- Education Subcommittee work ongoing; continue with feedback to K. Buckham
- Principals should meet with MDEQ reps ASAP.

Compiled and submitted by Michael Tenenbaum, KIESER & ASSOCIATES