

**Portage/Arcadia Creek 319 Watershed Planning Steering Committee  
Meeting Summary: July 22, 2002**

Meeting was held at Western Michigan University, Fetzer Center.

**Attendees:** Kathy Buckham, Pat Holton, Mark Kieser, Jenny Molloy, Janelle Hohm, Mike McCarville, Kay Chase, Mickey Cook, Bill Reed, Peter Maas, John Paquin, Mike Tenenbaum,

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The following summary corresponds to the order of the meeting.

- 1.) Bill Reed initiated greetings, introductions of participants and agenda review. No substantive changes were made.
- 2.) The scheduled review of the watershed management plan (WMP) was discussed. Expect one more meeting in about two weeks for final approval for submittal. Bill turned this component over to Jenny M., who indicated that the latest information suggests the GAP for 319 implementation funds should be out within 2-4 weeks. Indications are that the GAP is geared toward implementation of TMDLs, which could bode well for our requests if appropriately tailored. We were encouraged to consider prioritization of items for action in the plan with this component in mind. WMP format and status were discussed
  - In a preliminary review of posted materials on the website, earlier this month, Jenny noted that items 1-6 are all there and acceptable. Needs were discussed in terms of: what to implement, timeline, costs and evaluation process.
  - The point was made that much had been added o the website since the time of this evaluation and the current site conditions should be evaluated.
  - Time frame for action on the various remaining components was discussed; all should be completed within 7-10 days.
  - The eleven criteria to be met for approval of the plan and acceptance of an implementation plan grant will be termed Version I.
  - During the coming year remaining for the WMP, the plan can be updated (Version II) and completed to the satisfaction of all groups participating, and to meet the needs of the current grant that funded the WMP, through June 2003.
- 3.) A handout was provided for discussion purposes related to the water quality data synopsis. Since the Power Point projector would not synch properly with the laptop, M. Kieser provided a brief run-through of information in the hard copy. Average wet weather concentrations and loads were contrasted in another handout with average dry weather concentrations and loads. This was beneficial for all to get a feel for flow volumes and concentrations. Highest concentrations are typically not found within the highest flows. These data will also be called upon in the overall analysis that participants will use to determines what sites should receive priority consideration in the WMP.
- 4.) Mike Tenenbaum was then called upon to review the Site Selection Summaries prepared to date. Since Arcadia Creek had been reviewed at the last SC meeting and served as the

template for the remaining three, it was not reviewed again. Those others that were completed were reviewed for overall approach, identified problems and recommendations for action. Information will be condensed, tabulated and provided on the website to accommodate a more rapid understanding of problems and recommendations, costs, partners and so forth.

5.) Prioritization of implementation elements should take into account that 319 funds require a 25% match. High priorities should include opportunistic elements and synergistic impacts in the areas of:

- Education
- Operations and Maintenance Management
- Policy (public policy and demonstration opportunities, especially for infiltration)
- Physical (to include vegetative as well as structural)

In further related discussions, suggestions included the use of the State of Michigan BMP worksheet for assistance; NRCS engineering and related cost figures and other sources of cost information found to be available. The result is not intended to provide specific costs for development of any technique, but rather a realistic “ballpark” or “reliable range” for planning purposes.

Participants present expressed a need to establish demonstration sites of high value that will be available to riparians and others to follow. The opportunity to witness sites before and after, and have the electronic documentation placed on the website to preserve it, is most appealing to all. Agreement was also reached that an integrated systems approach is most desirable from a presentation perspective and that multi-disciplinary participants should keep this in mind as they become involved.

6.) Sustainability issues are among the most important next steps facing the watershed management plan. It will not be enough to have the plan readily available on the website if there are no people to advocate for its precepts when new issues and activities come to bear. The plan cannot be self-updating and so there must be a component to speak to that issue. Three critical elements were identified:

- A need to continue with and expand the current group
- The need for a few “point people” to call meetings, prepare notes, make contacts, and whatever routine maintenance is required.
- A need to continue and update as needed the current website

A technical committee meeting is scheduled on August 5, from 9-12 a.m. at the offices of K&A

The next SC meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 14, 8:30-11:00 a.m. at WMU Fetzer Center

Submitted by Michael Tenenbaum, Kieser & Associates.