

Portage/Arcadia Creek 319 Watershed Planning Steering Committee Meeting Summary: August 14, 2002

Meeting was held at Western Michigan University, Fetzer Center.

Attendees: Pat Holton, Mark Kieser, Janelle Hohm, Mike McCarville, Mickey Cook, Bill Reed, Ryan Teelander, Paul Olexia, Don Brown, Brian Boyer, Paul Manstrom, Mickey Cook, Steve Blumer, John Olech, Tom Small, Christopher Barnes, Hannah McKinney, Mike Tenenbaum.

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

1. B. Reed provided greetings to all and began introductions. Agenda was reviewed and accepted with no alterations.
2. There being no changes suggested, the meeting summary of July 22, 2002 was accepted as posted to the website. Due to his just returning from vacation, Bill was unable to provide copies of the most recent Administrative Report for distribution.
3. M. Kieser provided an overview of the current website content through the use of a laptop and projector. Highlights included:
 - a. Recognition of the printable PDF components, what they include and what they do not, for those who would like hard copies.
 - b. Acknowledgement that everything posted on the website as part of the plan is in reality part of a much larger dataset created to establish the plan.
 - c. Water quality data plots and formats are now posted to the site.
 - d. Under Section 11, the word “community” should be inserted as a funding source in addition to SC members.
 - e. A counter that records the number of “hits” should be added to the website as soon as possible. Future funding requests could be assisted if we can track where the hits are coming from.
 - f. With regard to people continuing to participate in oversight of this watershed management plan, M. Cook asked, “If we fulfill a need, regulatory or otherwise are we looking at a voluntary approach and direction for continuing as a group?” In general, the answer is yes.
 - g. Those participants under stormwater permits would endorse some of the concepts and approaches that best fit their needs but not participate in others. This would provide them with maximum flexibility and benefit as they interact with other stormwater permittees and requirements. This WMP becomes a tool for those

who are regulated. It is not itself a regulation or ordinance. It is not a “to do” list but rather a “could do” list for individuals and partners.

4. To aid facilitation in prioritizing implementation elements within each subwatershed, a tabular format was developed by K&A. The tables provide comprehensive information for each segment of each subwatershed, including recommended BMPs and ranges of costs. Large, printed copies of these tables were provided to those in attendance to be used in subwatershed break-out prioritization groups (tables are also posted on the website).

Prior to splitting into groups, M. Kieser provided an overview of the format used and definitions of the terminology incorporated in the tables to ensure consistency of understanding by all participants during the task of prioritization.

[There was mention of the Public Educational Plan not being posted on the site. NOTE: Actually, it has been there for several weeks. Click on EDUCATION in the left column of the main WMP page, and you will be taken to another page where the DRAFT PUBLIC EDUCATION PLAN link is found just below the line in the center of the page. There is a link to the same location in the Draft WMP list of contents.]

5. Upon reconvening the SC as a whole, representatives of each of the subwatersheds presented the prioritization elements as determined in their specific working group. The entire SC was then asked to approve or discuss alterations to the materials as presented. This resulted in a strong listing of key elements and the initial prioritization of an implementation approach. Should situations arise that might alter the order (e.g., funds approved for an element listed lower than others) the ranking order will be altered.
6. The next steps envisioned are to incorporate the information as determined today into the WMP, and complete the remaining elements of the plan. Updates will be made to the website as content elements are finalized and or prepared. The Education subcommittee will meet on the Thursday the 22nd of this month to perform a similar prioritization of elements as was accomplished in the meeting today. What is hoped will be a final review will be conducted in September, with any minor adjustments then being made to the WMP prior to submittal.
7. There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Michael Tenenbaum, KIESER & ASSOCIATES