

Portage/Arcadia Creek 319 Watershed Planning Steering Committee Meeting Summary: December 12, 2001

Meeting was held at Western Michigan University, Fetzer Center.

Attendees: Don Brown, Mickey Cook, Jim Coury, Pat Holton, Mark Kieser, Pete Maas, Paul Manstrom, Mike McCarville (guest), Jenny Molloy, John Olech, Paul Olexia, Bill Reed, Tom Small, Mike Tenenbaum and John VanDyke.

The following summary corresponds to the meeting agenda.

1. Dr. Pat Holton, representing WMU, provided a brief welcome. On behalf of the Steering Committee, Bill Reed acknowledged our thanks for once again hosting the meeting.
2. Self-introductions of all attendees and their affiliations followed. Joining us for the first time today were John VanDyke, Oshtemo Township Supervisor and Mike McCarville, WMU Chemistry professor, representing the City of Kalamazoo Environmental Concerns Committee. Copies of the agenda were distributed (*handout*) and slight alterations from the emailed version were noted. Upon review, there were no additional agenda changes made by the SC.
3. The meeting summary from November 14, 2001 had been distributed by email to members prior to the meeting for review and comment. They were approved as received.
 - It was acknowledged that Meeting Summaries attached to email reminders of the upcoming meeting should be continued (several comments were made on the benefit of this approach).
 - Bill provided copies of the November 2001 Tracking Report (*handout*) submitted to MDEQ. Copies of this monthly report will continue to be available at the Steering Committee meetings. A correction to the November summary was made at the bottom of page 1; “interviews” should be changed to “intervals”.
 - The Steering Committee Members Contact List (*handout*) was distributed. As previously agreed to, the list includes members name, affiliation and email address. In the case of Pharmacia, please add Richard Gendernalik in addition to Pete Maas. Rick’s email is richard.f.gendernalik@pharmacia.com. This correction will appear in the posted web site version.
4. Project Milestones, Discuss Steering Committee & Subcommittees Structure:
Bill introduced the nature of this topic for discussion. Mark then distributed prepared materials (*3-page handout*) and led the discussion that followed. Addressed in the commentary was an approach for relating and tracking milestones as established in the MDEQ’s Watershed Management Plan (WMP) Guide Book in conjunction with the Tasks and procedures being used for this specific project. The handout consisted of a three-page table. Listed in this Table were:
 - Chapter headings from the WMP guide Book (which can be viewed as project Milestones);
 - required information/elements associated with each milestone;
 - related Work Plan Tasks for each milestone, according to this project;
 - target dates for each milestone, and;

- the additional efforts (beyond WMP requirements) expected for each milestone of this project.

Viewing project work plan tasks using this structure also provides a template for accelerating the project schedule to complete planning elements in time for seeking implementation funding next summer. It was made clear that this approach will also allow for future input and modification to the planning process.

A change in MDEQ procedures was made after this grant was awarded regarding the timing of receiving approval of a Watershed Management Plan and application for Implementation Grant funds. Implementation fund requests for 319 projects need to be written for submittal by late summer (2002) to be awarded in the following spring (2003) with an approved Water Quality Management Plan. While this project might be eligible to submit under the RAP for the Kalamazoo River Watershed, the SC generally agreed that we should target the development, submittal and approval of a working WMP prior to the Implementation grant submittal deadline. The plan can be expanded and upgraded even after approval.

J. Molloy pointed out that any solicitation of funds greater than \$250,000 is required to go through an extra level of review at the State, typically resulting in an extended wait to obtain funds. CMI and 319 grant applications could be prepared and submitted at the same time for different aspects related to the Watershed Implementation component of the Plan. Any partner or group of partners for portions of the overall project could also seek other sources of funding. It was noted that current projections indicate perhaps 4-5 years remaining in the life of CMI non-point source funds.

Given this accelerated change in timetable, the Educational Subcommittee will now need to have an approach ready by Spring 2002.

Committee Structures:

Bill introduced the concept of creating subcommittees by specific watershed. Favorable discussion noted that with four such subcommittees, it would be possible to expand input from more sources and the specific character of each sub-watershed could better be established in the Plan. Creation of these groups was discussed later in the meeting.

5. Mark Kieser made available copies (*handout*) of a single sheet addressing Target Objectives for Discussion today. This handout provided approaches for the Steering Committee to use in our discussion of objectives for establishing the range of uses for the four watercourses in the study area. Should subcommittees be established, objectives were provided for them too. Provisions to be made by both K&A and the Forum for this process were included.

Application of the approaches alluded to above was then put to task in addressing the next series of handouts (*four multi-page handouts*). At the November 2001 meeting a single table had been provided which incorporated the Designated Use elements for all four streams. This information has been expanded and modified per SC comments. The original Table as distributed, and the revised counterpart can be found at ([web site location/link](#)). Each stream is now described within its own 4-page, separate handout, which includes:

- A Table of Draft Designated Uses;

- Preliminary Goals for the Sub-watershed, and;
- General and specific references used in generating the information described for that Creek.

Bill Reed facilitated SC discussion for each sub-watershed. Bill recorded any additions and deletions recommended by SC members.

First addressed was Table 1a. relating to Arcadia Creek. T. Small noted the presence of three threatened species, including Burr Oak, within this area. Navigation was eliminated from the Impaired Uses column and additional elements (noted in green) were added under Designated Uses, Watershed Water Quality Concern, and Stakeholder Visions in the revised Table 1a. Preliminary Goals were not altered at this time. No additional resource materials were identified.

Table 1b. addressed Axtell Creek. Navigation was removed and Invasive vegetation added to the Impaired Uses column. There were no other elements removed but several added, as illustrated in the Designated Uses, Watershed Water Quality and Stakeholder Visions columns shown in the revised Table 1b. Added to the Goals for this sub-watershed were references to enhancement/expansion of wetlands, warm season grass plantings and increased use of prairie vegetation. Protection of the connectivity between surface water and groundwater was another goal added for Axtell Creek, noting the presence of City Wellfields in and around the area.

Moving to Table 1c., Portage Creek, “additional stormwater load” was removed from the Threatened Uses column and added under Watershed Water Quality Concern, along with Agricultural impacts (runoff in particular) and Invasive species. Under Stakeholder Visions, Natural Resources Inventory and Working with local municipalities (City and Townships) for NRI consistency in their Land Use Plans were added. Goals were left unchanged at this point in time. A more in-depth review of the Portage Watershed Plan for Davis, Gourdneck and Portage Creek will be undertaken for consistency.

Lastly, Table 1d. was referred to for the West Branch of Portage Creek. No elements were removed from this Table. Additions (as noted at www.kalamazooriver.net) were made in the categories of Watershed Water Quality Concern, Threatened Uses and Stakeholder Visions. Protection was added as an amendment to the Goal of emphasizing groundwater connectivity.

An agenda item for the next SC meeting will focus on further discussion/refinement and adoption of these Designated Use Tables to fulfill our first project milestone. By then, each respective Creek sub-committee should have met for input to compile a Working Final Draft of the Designated Use Table, Pollutants, Data Sources and Goals.

Throughout the process of today’s meeting, Steering Committee members repeatedly expressed the belief that all of these creeks need to be viewed and treated as community assets. Within the context of discussion it was noted that we have an opportunity to develop “model urban 319 practices” as a core component of this project. Those in attendance agreed to pursue such action as well.

During this conversation, P. Maas noted the meeting being held at 7:00 p.m. this evening at the Kalamazoo County Administrative Building, where representatives of the USGS will present an update to the Regional Groundwater Budget Analysis for Kalamazoo County they are conducting. Partners for this study include the Cities of Kalamazoo and

Portage, Kalamazoo County, Pharmacia and USGS. This study mirrors similar concerns expressed in our project in that it too relates the interconnectivity and significance of ground water-surface water interactions.

Attention was then directed to creation of subcommittees for each creek. Initial representation on each group is provided below based on voluntary requests and suggestions for those not in attendance. It was noted that these are not to be treated as closed groups, though they should remain relatively small for effective communication and action.

<u>Axtell Creek</u>	<u>Arcadia Creek</u>	<u>Portage Creek</u>
Paul Olexia	Pat Holton	COK rep.
Andy DeGraves	DKI rep.	City of Portage (COP rep.
Kathy Buckham	Stuart nghbrhd. Rep.	Barbara Wygant
City of Kalamazoo (COK rep.	COK rep.	Pete Maas/Rick Gendernalik
	Tom Small	
	John Olech	
	Paul Manstrom	

West Branch Portage Creek

Mickey Cook
Pat Holton
John VanDyke
Ron Commissaris
Jim Coury
Kathy Buckham

Bill Reed offered his assistance to coordinate and moderate activities of these groups as needed, including extended outreach to the general public. Pat Holton offered the conference room in her office (Bigelow Hall, WMU) as the site for the first meeting of the Arcadia Creek group, set for Thursday January 3, 2002, at 9:00 a.m.

6. Tom Small and Mike McCarville both expressed interest in serving on the Education Subcommittee and will now be added to that group. Bill and Mark offered a brief explanation as to why there is a need for a Technical Subcommittee and the type of oversight role it would play. The following list of SC members was proposed to serve on this subcommittee. Approval will be sought for those suggested by the SC but not in attendance today as indicated by italics.

Technical Subcommittee:

Jenny Molloy	Representative from KIESER & ASSOCIATES
<i>Jeff Reicherts</i>	Jim Coury
<i>Jay Wesley</i>	<i>Barb Wygant</i>

The database management element on the agenda was deferred to a future meeting of the Technical Subcommittee.

7. The report on the Axtell Creek Field Trip by the Education Subcommittee will be provided as a web site update with any questions to follow by interested parties addressed in the web Discussion Group or at a future meeting.
8. There were no additional comments or new business to come before the group.

9. The next FULL Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for February 13, at 9:00 a.m., at the WMU Fetzer Center, unless otherwise noted.
10. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:20 a.m.

Submitted by Michael Tenenbaum for the Steering Committee.