

**Portage/Arcadia Creek 319 Watershed Planning Steering Committee
Meeting Summary: November 14, 2001**

Meeting was held at City Hall, City of Portage, Conference Room #1

Attendees: Don Brown, Kathy Buckham, Bruce Callen, Mickey Cook, Jim Coury, Pat Holton, Ric Gendernalik, Mark Kieser, Paul Manstrom, Jenny Molloy, John Olech, John Paquin, Bill Reed, Jeff Reicherts, Tom Small, Mike Tenenbaum

The following summary corresponds to the meeting agenda.

1. Bruce Callen, representing the City of Portage, provided a brief welcome. Bill Reed responded with a thank you on behalf of the committee for hosting the meeting.
2. Self-introductions of all attendees and their affiliations followed. Agendas were distributed, reviewed and no changes were made.
3. Copies of the meeting summary (*handout*) from October 19, 2001 were distributed to those who needed them for review and comment. They were approved as received.
 - It was generally agreed that Meeting Summaries should be attached to email reminders of the upcoming meeting. This should reduce the need for printing more copies than needed and allow for timely review. This process will now be followed.
 - Bill provided copies of the Tracking Report (*handout*) submitted every month to MDEQ. Copies will be available every month at the Steering Committee meeting.
 - Future meeting dates (2nd Wednesday each month) were established for:
 - December 12, 2001 WMU Fetzer Center
 - January 9, 2002 ?
 - February 13, 2002 ?
 - March 13, 2002 ?
 - Potential future meeting sites to be explored include: Portage City Hall, Kalamazoo Water Reclamation Plant, Kalamazoo Recreation Dept. Building, WMU, County Fairgrounds, KVCC Downtown and at Texas Township campus.
4. Steering Committee Structure: Bill introduced the topic for discussion. Materials were distributed (*two handouts*) in response to a question raised at the last meeting. Handouts included a flow chart diagram illustrating Potential Steering Committee Organizational Structure and a listing of the “Anticipated Final Products”. M. Kieser presented both pieces in some detail, through the use of a Power Point presentation. It was noted that one element, “The Overall Conceptual Needs for Participants” list, would likely be

expanded by consistently seeking stakeholder input. With regard to the “Anticipated Final Products”, these should be labeled Preliminary. The Land Use Sensitivity maps will be for critical areas only. General comments suggested that this type of information as presented today helped participants better understand their potential roles as this effort unfolds.

5. An “Information and Update” presentation followed by M. Tenenbaum on the status of interviews conducted, noteworthy information on other projects and a website update. The first item discussed noted that just over half of the interviews have been conducted at this point. The question of whether individuals wanted their names or the name of the organization they represent listed was next discussed. It was decided that a contact list should be prepared consisting of name, email address and organization represented. This list should be distributed to SC members and made available on the website. In so doing, access will be facilitated to both direct and indirect participants of the project.

A brief update on the intent to create a database for the questionnaire and other data in MS ACCESS format was presented. More will follow as this effort is pursued.

The selected summary of responses received focused on related projects and activities also taking place within these sub-watersheds (*handout*). Among those deemed to be of greater impact to this 319 project are the:

- Arcadia Creek sediment management plan being prepared for DKI;
- Rewriting of the zoning ordinances for the City of Kalamazoo;
- City of Kalamazoo Upjohn Park redevelopment plans which incorporate Axtell and Portage Creeks;
- Partners Building Community project, involving Portage Road and the Edison neighborhood;
- USGS groundwater modeling project for water budget analyses (***NOTE: there will be a report presented on this research project December 12, 2001, at 7:30 p.m., in the Kalamazoo County Board Room, 201 W. Kalamazoo Ave., second floor***);
- Portage Creek Flood Hazard Analysis;
- City of Kalamazoo Linear Trailway project, and;
- City of Kalamazoo stormwater infrastructure inventory and identification project

Another summary selection of interview responses will also be provided at the next SC meeting.

A general discussion followed, noting recent updates to the website. A request was made for partners to register for the discussion page. As we move forward in the project, this site will be used to present ideas for exposure and discussion not just among the Steering Committee members but also the broader community at large. The site offers us all the benefit of broad exposure and exchange of information heretofore not available with other local projects of this type.

6. A sheet on “Identifying Water Quality Concerns” and a **draft** “Table of Designated Uses and Desired Stream Uses” were distributed (*two handouts*). The “Water Quality Concerns” sheet contains MDEQ definitions for Designated Use, Impaired Use, Watershed Concern, Threatened Use and Desired Use. A key point presented was that

Designated Use includes established uses by both federal and state water quality programs and in particular noted it is the goal of Michigan to have all waters of the state meet all designated uses.

Table 1. was discussed as a first attempt to provide an overview of designated and desired uses for the streams involved within this study. As discussion developed, it was made clear that “navigation” should be dropped as a Designated Use for both Arcadia and Axtell Creeks. Navigation would be irrelevant for these two creeks since it is already physically prohibited on each and these conditions will not likely change. Other comments noted were: that the heading of Watershed Concerns should be changed to Watershed Water Quality Concerns; that the last column should note that the Desired Uses are Stakeholders Visions for Desired and Creative Uses, and; that “coldwater fishery” should be added to the Desired Uses for the West Branch of Portage Creek.

An agenda item for the next SC meeting will focus on a discussion of Steering Committee participants’ further review of and individual input into this “Designated Uses” piece.

Additional discussions included comments that the plan should be flexible in nature and include concepts for stream segments as well as lakes within the watershed. It was noted that the City of Portage looks at bodies of water as *community amenities*. A KEY GOAL for this planning process in general will be a sustainable stewardship component.

The opportunity to address the connection between surface water and groundwater in this planning effort was also identified. Agreement in discussion appeared to approve that approach as well.

Due to time constraints the “new mapping” agenda item was not addressed at this meeting.

7. A Power Point presentation was next provided, narrated by M. Kieser. This effort provided an insight into the “tour your watershed” approach being developed for the website. When “clicked-on”, points located on an overview map transition to a single page of general information and images taken at that specific point under various weather conditions. In this way, the observer gains insight into many aspects of a particular water body and surrounding lands, under different climatic conditions, without leaving the comfort of one’s own computer. Comments from the SC were favorable, with many encouraging the developers to move forward toward the more final product.
8. B. Reed presented copies of a Project Summary and a revised Timeline provided to attendees (*two handouts*). In his comments, Bill noted that the Project Summary would enable participants to provide a synopsis-type response to inquiries received regarding the nature of this project. (Bill received a color, master copy, while all others received black and white versions of this summary.) Discussions noted that the revised timeline provided now reflects the project more appropriately in terms of start date and proposed time ranges for each task. Should additional revisions be required as the project progresses, K&A will either provide updates or refer, with notification, to a newly posted item on the website.
9. M. Tenenbaum provided a brief update on the Education Sub-committee, noting that members of this group include: Kathy Buckham, Barb Wygant, Don Brown, Paul Olexia

and Mike Tenenbaum. During their first meeting, decisions reached on direction to pursue included:

- To follow Tasks 7 & 8;
- Not to “reinvent” watershed education, but to explore websites and other sources for materials currently in-use and available;
- To seek approval (if needed) for specific materials found to be modified and used within our project;
- To have K. Buckham present her proposal for Axtell Creek at our next meeting;
- To provide suitable information to local institutions, agencies and organizations most capable of dissemination of the information to appropriate target audiences, and;
- To explore opportunities within the public school system.

There being no additional discussion, we moved to the next agenda item.

10. M. Kieser provided insight into developments affecting the Water Quality Monitoring component of the project (*two handouts*). One handout listed the “Targeted Sampling Schedule for Dry Weather Sampling, Wet Weather Sampling and Continuous Monitoring” (the continuous monitoring being for Portage and Arcadia Creeks only). There are 13 locations on the Main Branch of Portage Creek (the City of Portage is supporting 8 of these in a separate effort), 5 stations on the West Fork of Portage Creek, 7 on Arcadia Creek and 3 on Axtell Creek. The Continuous Monitoring sites are close to the mouths of Portage and Arcadia Creeks, where they empty into the Kalamazoo River. It was noted that approval from the City of Kalamazoo had just been received and the installation of a weir at the Arcadia Creek monitoring site was to take place after the meeting today. All who wished to assist or observe were invited to do so.

The second handout provided a tabular listing of sampling locations and parameters to be collected at each site. Discussion was relatively brief and focused on questions and answers of clarification that allowed all to have knowledge of exactly what is to be performed and where it will be conducted. A topographic map collage with color-coded arrows used to identify sampling stations on each stream was made available for S.C. review.

11. There was no new business to come before the Steering Committee.
12. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:10 a.m.

Submitted by Michael Tenenbaum for the Steering Committee.